

2017

Annual Parish

Report



*Three Sanctuaries,
One Community in Christ*

www.hwbkgva.org

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A WORD ABOUT THE 2017 ANNUAL MEETING

The canons of the church only require the election of new vestry members during the annual meeting. Therefore, the only official business to be conducted will be the election of new vestry members. Once the election is conducted, the official meeting will be concluded. The remaining time will be spent in fellowship over lunch and an informal question and answer period with the Rector.

Questions about the specific content of any of the reports that follow should be addressed directly to the individual who submitted said report.

As always, the Rector is willing to meet and discuss any aspect of our common life in Christ with anyone attending Hanover-with-Brunswick. Please feel free to contact him by phone, text or email rector@hwbkva.org.

1. Rector's Report

At the time of the annual meeting, I will have completed my first six months with you. During that time, I have begun to understand who you are as an outpost of the Gospel of Christ. And I certainly have come to find myself considering this my home.

You are a unique community in the life of the Episcopal Church as you are composed of two separate churches with two sets of national and diocesan level reporting requirements. Your portfolio of properties include three sanctuaries in three distinct locations; one rectory on nearly fifty acres and another house that is a rental property by Lamb's Creek. Yet, you have a single vestry and are functionally one congregation.

One major challenge I face as I enter this particular community is that administratively you are very decentralized. Some of your “business practices” are based on old models that probably date to the early twentieth century. Those same models began to be reformed in large Episcopal churches in the 1970’s. It has taken far longer for small rural churches to make those same reforms.

Ironically, in the Commonwealth of Virginia, decentralized authority is not the history of the colonial parishes. It could be argued that the vestry system as we have it today as encoded in our national and diocesan canons was developed in the Virginia colony that began in 1607. The central premise is that the vestry and the vestry alone is the temporal authority of the parish. It is the vestry that has span of control across all temporal parish resources. No individual nor any particular group has the authority to conduct temporal business of any sort without the clear and explicit authorization of the vestry unless otherwise provided for by the canons of the church.

Another challenge I have faced is determining what the traditions of this parish are and what the documentable history actually is. “We have always done it that way” is a favorite refrain across the Episcopal Church (and I suspect every organization made up of human beings). Often, however, when I ask different members of our community, I get different answers to the question of how “we have always done it that way.” I also have received different opinion as to whether the “tradition” is meaningful or helpful. On many questions, particularly about liturgy, I have received conflicting opinions as to what is valuable and what is not. Simply put, while you are a cohesive community, you are not of one mind on many things.

I have mentioned canons and prayer book rubrics several times over the months since I have been here and will continue to do so. In the Episcopal Church, both canons and rubrics are meant to create the framework of our common life together. For the most part they are not overtly restrictive unless there is a good reason to be so. They are our friends to help us govern ourselves in an orderly manner that is flexible but also protective of the common good.

One of the joys I have found with you is your concern but more importantly your action to help those less fortunate in our community. The OPP Shop is truly an amazing enterprise jointly run by all the Episcopal congregations in King George with lots of assistance from others. I have enjoyed those occasions when I have helped out either bagging items purchased or sorting items in the back rooms. Another wonderful outreach project that I have had a chance to participate in is the monthly turn cooking at the Thurman Brisben shelter. And that is to name just two of the projects that Hanover-with-Brunswick participates with.

Another joy has been teaching the bible study class at the rectory. Being able to have significant conversations about Scripture is a blessing to me.

For a variety of reasons, chiefly because I am an introvert, I do not make “cold calls” on people. I am more than happy to come out and see any of you but you need to ask. I am happy to meet in the office, the rectory, or your homes. More often than not I am able to make arrangements on a few hours’ notice. I also normally respond fairly rapidly to emails and texts even late into the night. And please, never hesitate to call in cases of an emergency regardless of the time of day or night.

In closing, I would like to thank the Vestry for calling me as your rector and helping me get settled in. I would like to thank all of you for accepting me into your community and for your various ministries in the name of Christ. There are too many people to thank by name in this space. But I would be remiss not to publicly thank the unpaid members of the staff: Margie Stevens who weekly works with selecting the music and keeping me somewhat straight with it; Jim Smith who is our organist; and David Sheffield our substitute organist.

God bless all of you!

The Rev. Richard E. Fichter, Jr
Rector

2. Senior Warden’s Report

This year, 2017, has been a year of transition and new beginning for Hanover-with-Brunswick Parish (HwB) as well as continuing our strong tradition of worship, stewardship, and service. The diligent labor of the Search Committee, comprising Calvin Gibson, Margie Stevens, Amber Kintz, and Denise Manard presented, and the vestry called, the Rev. Richard E. Fichter, Jr., to be our rector, starting in June. While we are still in the settling-in stage, parishioners and rector are growing together in our common life, and the parish is showing strength and growth.

In preparation for Fr. Richard’s arrival, the vestry authorized some much-needed repairs to the Rectory. Junior Warden Kevin Biondi did a first-class job as clerk of the works for work on not only the Rectory, but also St. John’s Church and the Parish House, and Jack Meyers oversaw ongoing work at Emmanuel and Lamb’s Creek.

Fr. Richard has instituted some new practices, including an 8 a.m. service of Holy Eucharist every Sunday at St. John’s, and he leads a weekly Bible study at the Rectory. He oversees liturgy, Christian education, stewardship, fellowship, outreach, and parish administration., and keeps us running smoothly, on task, and on track (mostly).

Volunteers have given much of themselves as vestrypersons; choir members; lectors, chalices, and acolytes; and lay Eucharistic ministers. Others have stepped up to spearhead outreach projects including the Thanksgiving baskets and Christmas family projects and summer Lunch Bunch as well as the Labor Day Yard Sale, Spring Fling, and Cookie Boutique. Everyone who calls this parish “home” has given generously of his or her time, treasure, and talent.

Michaele Morton
Senior Warden

3. St. John's Treasurer's Report

The Vestry, Finance Committee and Treasurer are responsible for oversight of the collection, disbursement and management of the funds of the Parish.

Phyllis Gibson is the Treasurer for St. John's. Monthly reports are provided to the Vestry and are available for inspection.

St. John's 2017 Checking Balance to Date

Opening Balance 1/1/2017	\$13,941.21
Income	\$73,725.57
Expenditures	\$81,532.86
Closing Balance 10/31/2017	\$6,133.92

St. John's 2017 Regular Income to Date

Pledge	\$69,977.00
Plate	\$1,508.60
Other	\$2,236.36
Checking Interest	\$3.61
Total	\$73,725.57

St. John's 2017 Expenses to Date

Category	Total
Cash	\$160.00
Convention	\$315.00
Copier	\$607.15
Insurance	\$6,347.00
License Fee	\$215.75
Maintenance	\$9,201.02
Office	\$133.47
Salary and Personnel Expense	\$38,795.78
Reimbursement	\$683.41
Transfers to Savings	\$16,150.00
Utility	\$8,924.28
Total	\$81,532.86

During 2017 \$16,000.00 was transferred to the St. John's Regular Savings account, which had an October 31, 2017, closing balance of \$32,132.62. The St. John's Building Fund received an \$11,000.00 transfer and deposits of \$4,649.28 from the Labor Day Sale and \$334.05 from the Pancake Supper. The Building Fund had an October 31, 2017, closing balance of \$31,826.91.

2018 Budget

The 2018 Budget is being developed by the Vestry with the assistance of the Treasurer.

4. Sacristan's Report

The altar guilds at St. John's and Emmanuel continue to prepare the sanctuary for weekly services, including a newly added 8 a.m. service every Sunday at St. John's, in addition to the occasional wedding, baptism, funeral, or special service, including Homecoming and the Blessing of the Animals at Lamb's Creek.

Thankfully, our altar guild members have increased in recent months, and we welcome Sarah Page and Roan Grapes at St. John's and Jessica Herrink and Gail Ratliffe at Emmanuel. Please volunteer if you can take a Sunday here or there, or a month of Sundays, as most of us on the altar guilds do. No experience is necessary; we will train you. Call me 775-7222 or email at michaelemorton@verizon.net to volunteer.

The altar guild is funded entirely by donations from the Episcopal Church Women (Glory Guild) and from parishioners and friends of the parish. Those funds are used to buy altar flowers, wine, wafers, candles, linens, hangings, housekeeping supplies, etc. In the summer, generous gardeners donate flowers for the altar, and we depend on evergreens from local yards, fields, and the churchyard during Advent and Lent, thereby minimizing expenditures for flowers and/or greens.

Members and friends are always welcome to make donations to the altar guild fund for flowers or church furnishings in memory or honor of someone. If that is your wish, please let me know.

Michael Morton
Sacristan

5. Glory Guild Report

The purpose of the Glory Guild is to support Hanover-with-Brunswick Parish to provide outreach funding and services to the citizens of King George County and the greater community through donations of time, talent and financial support.

Funding was generated by the Spring Fling and the Annual Christmas Cookie Boutique.

Monies earned for outreach services went to the following services and organizations in 2017:

- \$500 to the school cafeterias (\$100 each) at King George High School, King George Middle School, King George Elementary School, Potomac Elementary School and Sealston Elementary School
- \$500 to Thurman Brisben
- \$500 to Love Thy Neighbor
- \$500 to King George Social Services

Respectfully Submitted,
Gloria Burrell

6. Region 1 Delegate Report

The region structure in the diocese is being realigned as has been previously reported. Hanover-with-Brunswick will be in a new region as of Jan 1st. The regions will now have names rather than numbers and our region will be known as the Fredericksburg Region. The region will encompass the city as well as

the four surrounding counties, which includes King George. By petition, St. Mary's in Colonial Beach will join the new region.

The old Region 1 stretched from Vauter's Church in Essex County to churches in Culpeper, Orange and Louisa Counties, a total of 19 churches in all. The distances were so great that not all churches were able to have representatives at every region meeting. The new region will have eleven churches closer together which will open new opportunities for regional fellowship and activities. The churches in the new region are: Aquia in Stafford, Christ Church and Church of the Messiah in Spotsylvania, Trinity and St. George's in Fredericksburg, St. Asaph's and St. Peter's in Caroline, St. Mary's in Colonial Beach, and St. John's, Emmanuel and St. Paul's in King George.

The funds of Region 1 will be distributed among the new regions as follows based on the ratio of how the churches are moving around: Fredericksburg 55%, Culpeper 25%, Charlottesville 15% Middle Peninsula, 5%. The total amount is \$42,383, which includes funds for member church emergencies, clergy sabbaticals, mission and outreach, and new church planting, as well as general operating expenses.

Here is a summary of Region 1 Council activities over the past year. This is extracted from the excellent report to the recent Annual Council by our Region 1 president Carolyne Ashton of St. Paul's.

At its first meeting in 2017, Region 1 elected a new President, Carolyne Ashton, St. Paul's King George, and a new Vice President, Mary Nixon, Aquia Episcopal Church, Stafford. We also welcomed a new Dean, The Very Rev. Catherine Hicks, St. Peter's, Port Royal. 10-12 churches on average are represented at each meeting.

Our guest at our first meeting was Diane Miller, Co-chair of the Regional Revisioning Task Force. Ms. Miller spoke about progress on the revisioning process and opened the floor for questions. Sharon Boivin also presented on the work being done on the website for the transition of regions.

In April, we welcomed Aisha Huertas with the new Diocesan Office of Intercultural Ministries. She informed us about the work of this office and about training events that the Diocese would be building or already had to assist members of the Diocese in increasing their skills in advocacy and racial understanding. This presentation fit in nicely with work on race relations and racial awareness begun by the previous president and continued by the current president.

At each meeting, we conduct an exercise or a discussion on racial understanding and racism where we can see in microcosm the different places many people are when facing this topic. At the September meeting each church reported on a variety of activities they are doing with predominately African-American churches from various denominations in their communities. Activities ranged from shared food banks and community to suppers to shared services and a few conducting conversations on race. The Region 1 President is going to work with the Committee on Race to find a time when we can conduct a regional presentation of "Seeing the Face of God in Each Other" in early 2018. We want to keep moving this agenda into deeper territory.

Jim Lynch
Region 1 Council Delegate

7. The Opp Shop Annual Report for 2017

The Opp Shop is an outreach, service organization supported by volunteers whose goal is to provide a source of low cost clothing and household goods. The Opp shop is sponsored by the two Episcopal

parishes in King George County. Profits from the Opp shop sales are distributed to non-profit charitable organizations. The shop also provides, without charge, necessary items to families in need. The Opp Shop Board maintains two giving cycles each year. In 2017, the building fund increased by \$40,000.

Charitable Organizations	Apr-17	Oct-17
Jackson Feild Home	\$500	\$500
Covington Boys	500	1,500
St. Paul's Discretionary Fund	2,500	3,500
St. John's Discretionary Fund	2,500	500
Bishop Johnston's Discretionary Fund	250	250
Episcopal Relief Development	500	500
King George Fire Dept/Rescue Squad	1,000	1,000
Hope House	1,000	1,000
Thurman Brisben Shelter	4,000	5,000
Rapp. Big Brothers Big Sisters	500	500
Empower House	1,000	1,000
Rapp. Council Against Sexual Assault	250	250
King George Social Services (Food & Heat)	3,000	4,000
Fancy's Friends	0	250
Haiti Micah Project	500	1,000
King George Fund for Kids (Parks and Rec)	1,000	1,000
Little Ark Food	3,000	3,000
King George Clinic (Social Services)	1,500	2,500
Colonial Beach Free Clinic	1,000	2,000
YMCA Open Door Program	500	500
Scholastic Book Funds	0	300
King George Schools - Lunch Fund	0	2,200
King George HS Scholarships (2)	5,000	0
After Prom Program	250	250
KGMS - STEM Evening	0	500
Lunch Bunch	2,000	0
Sealston Elementary - ROCK Mentoring	0	500
Micah Ecumenical Ministries	1,000	1,500
National Child Safety Council	0	500
Love Thy Neighbor	1,000	1,000
My Life After School	500	0
Special Olympics Virginia	0	500
Wendy's Feline Friends	250	250
KGHS DECA Project Support	500	0
Young Life	0	500
Totals	\$35,500	\$37,750