

2018 Annual Parish Report



*Three Sanctuaries,
One Community in Christ*

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A WORD ABOUT THE 2018 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@hwbkgva.org.

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1. Rector's Report

2018 has proven to be a year of changes for my parents and me. My father retired and continues dealing with major health issues. This means life is significantly different for my parents and that does affect my responsibilities as their son. Having completed my first year with you and with the Vestry's approval, in November I started a secular job being employed as a contractor at Dahlgren through Bowhead Support Services, LLC.

It may seem ironic to some, but seeking and accepting a secular job is actually a measure of my commitment to my ministry with Hanover-with-Brunswick. I was hired as part-time with you both to save money and in recognition that your size does not have enough to keep an experienced fulltime priest occupied. Because I continue to strongly believe that I am called to be your rector, it was important that I find other ways to use my free time. As an added benefit, with a second income stream, I will increase my personal giving to our common life together.

There are many joys I have found with my ministry with you. Some of the highlights are:

- I enjoy the occasions when I help out either bagging items purchased or sorting items in the back rooms of the Opp Shop.
- I enjoy the fellowship and sense of accomplishment when I help with our times cooking dinner at the Thurman Brisben Shelter.
- I continue to be amazed and thrilled by the attendance at the Rector's Bible Study. Preparing for and teaching the bible study helps me reflect on scripture and its importance in our lives.
- I am very excited by the progress we are making at establishing "Fr. Richard's Trail" making use of the gift we have in the rectory property.

There are challenges we face as a community. In reviewing my report from last year, I have decided to repeat the following text:

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.

As I have mentioned many times already, the canons and prayer book rubrics are meant to create the framework of our common life together and are meant to protect the common good without being too restrictive. Understanding the governance documentation of our denomination can greatly decrease the chance that we continually "reinvent the wheel."

Stewardship is always a challenge most especially for smaller parishes. While we do an excellent job with many outreach ministries, we are less strong when it comes to financial giving. Yes, we are blessed with a significant amount of financial resources given in the past, but much of those resources are designated. Honestly, some of those designations ultimately are not very beneficial for the common

good. In my opinion, moving towards centralized accounting and financial management as Hanover-with-Brunswick instead of a confederation of constituent pieces of various sizes will make it much easier to report about our fiscal position and adequately plan for the continued strong fiscal health of our parish.

As I have been preparing this annual report, it appears that we are deficit spending somewhere between \$10,000 to \$20,000 in the general operations collectively as Hanover-with-Brunswick Parish. Yes, we have the resources to cover that deficit. But I am not certain that that is the best use of those resources. Therefore, I do encourage all of us to be faithful in our financial giving to the general operations of our parish as a unified whole to avoid as much deficit spending as possible.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you 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 Report

The year 2018 has been an exciting one for Hanover Parish. The Rev. Richard Fichter, Jr. has continued to serve as our part-time rector, providing guidance and leadership in our faith journey.

Fr. Richard has made the Rectory a warm and welcoming home and has been most generous in sharing it with us on such occasions as the parish picnic in June and weekly Bible study. He has also established Fr. Richard's trail on the Rectory property for persons seeking a pleasant hiking venue and/or a peaceful and lovely place to commune with nature. Several parishioners have donated hours of their time to help clear and mark the trail, which meanders through the 50-odd acre Rectory property.

Membership and attendance at weekly services has increased, and Hanover Parish has continued to take an active part in outreach projects including the Opp Shop, cooking at the Brisben Shelter in Fredericksburg, providing Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets to families in need. Our parish continues its strong tradition of fellowship with after-church coffee hour and occasional potluck affairs. The Labor Day yard sale and Christmas Cookie Boutique combine fellowship and outreach with fundraising efforts to benefit the church and its activities and missions.

We have met our financial obligations during 2000; Fr. Richard has done his own secretarial tasks, devoting many hours to office business and saving us the expense of a parish secretary. Members and friends have donate their time, talent, and treasure to keep our several historic buildings in good condition.

As your senior warden, I thank you all for you your continuing support and encouragement not only for me as warden, but for our church as a whole and its missions of worship, education, fellowship, and outreach. The life of Hanover Parish depends on it!

Michaele Morton
Senior Warden

3. Junior Warden Report

This year has been busy with several repairs as well as ongoing maintenance. Note: General maintenance on all the buildings requires constant attention. We are fixing/repairing issues as they arise.

St. John's:

- Lighting in St. John's is 98% completed. Still waiting on dimmers for lights.
- The sunken tombstone was unearthed and reset.
- A large pine tree that fell from the neighboring property was removed from the cemetery.
- Discussion is ongoing regarding the lights on the outside windows of the church.
- Need to take care of the unfinished cabinets used by the altar guild.

Parish Hall

- The handicap ramp needs repair.

Rectory

- Throughout the year, several repairs have been required to keep the rectory roof from leaking. Furnace issues have also been addressed.
- Heat is now working after a blower fan was replaced. Repairs were completed and the furnace was serviced.
- The entrance fence to the rectory property is rotten and needs to be removed and replaced.
- We are waiting on contractors to look at the back porch and siding on the rectory building. We are also waiting to get an estimate for repairing the smoke house and old kitchen.
- The old barn needs removal along with necessary clean up from the demolition.
- Phase one of our hiking trail has been cleared. Next phase has been marked, and work has started on clearing.

Frankie Stevens
Junior Warden

4. 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.

The annual Labor Day Sale generated \$3,588.49, which was deposited into the St. John's Building Fund. \$4,150.00 was transferred from the St. John's Building Fund to pay for improvements and repairs at St. John's and the Rectory. The balance of the St. John's Building fund is \$26,821.10.

\$17,000.00 was transferred from the St. John's Regular Savings to pay for operating expenses in 2018, to date. The balance of the St. John's Regular Savings is \$11,758.99.

Additional income to St. John's this year included \$2,000.00 from the Opp Shop, \$241.72 from AI Anon and \$100.00 from the Garden Club. No within-parish contributions were received this year from Emmanuel Church.

The 2019 Budget is being developed by the Vestry with the assistance of the Treasurer.

Phyllis Gibson
St. John's Treasurer

5. Fredericksburg Region Delegate Report

The new regional structure in the Diocese of Virginia started at the beginning of the year. We're now in the Fredericksburg Region, which is much more compact than our "old" region, Region I. The region comprises the eleven Episcopal churches in Fredericksburg and the counties of Spotsylvania, Stafford, King George and Caroline, along with the town of Colonial Beach. The Fredericksburg Region Council meetings are held four times a year in a central location. Currently, the meetings are held at Trinity in Fredericksburg. Harry Dickinson of Trinity is the President of the Region and the Very Rev. Catherine Hicks (St. Peter's, Port Royal) is Dean.

There have been three meetings so far this calendar year. The 4th will be on November 29th.

In the first meeting we discussed some of the projects that our member churches were involved in. The second meeting continued that discussion. The new bylaws were discussed and revised. Other subjects discussed were Bishop Johnston's impending retirement, the selection of a provision diocesan bishop, issues with the diocesan trust fund, and the disposition of three pieces of church property in the region. The budget for the year was adopted.

At the third meeting, in September, the bylaws were adopted. We endorsed two of our members for election to the Diocesan Standing Committee. The Rev Bambi Willis was subsequently elected at the recent Convention. We discussed the Presiding Bishop's encouragement for churches to participate in "The Way of Love" program. The discussion revolved around a proposed resolution to implement the program in the Diocese. The primary resolve is "Resolved, that we recognize that The Episcopal Church (TEC) has prepared excellent resources, entitled the Way of Love Rule of Life, available for use throughout TEC as an effective means to equip us better for more effective Christian ministry, including evangelism, racial reconciliation and care of creation..." (R-1 as adopted). The council members generally agreed with the thrust of the resolution and the program, but concern was expressed over the reporting requirements. These were removed when the resolution was passed by Convention.

Jim Lynch
Region 1 Council Delegate

6. Altar Guild Report

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

The altar guild is funded entirely by donations 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.

In 2018, we dedicated a new white altar frontal given in memory of Nick Garza by his grandparents Chris and Charlie Peyton.

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.

Our altar guild members are few. 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.

Michaele Morton
Sacristan

7. The Opp Shop Annual Report for 2018

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.

Charitable Organizations	Apr-18	Oct-18	Total
Jackson Field Home	\$500	\$500	\$1,000
Covington Boys	1,000	1,500	2,500
St. Paul's Discretionary Fund	2,000	2,500	4,500
St. John's Ministries	2,000	2,500	4,500
Bishop Johnston's Discretionary Fund	250	250	500
Episcopal Relief Development	500	500	1,000
King George Fire Dept/Rescue Squad	1,000	1,000	2,000
Hope House	1,000	1,000	2,000
Thurman Brisben Shelter	4,000	5,000	9,000
Rapp. Big Brothers Big Sisters	500	500	1,000
Empower House	1,000	1,000	2,000
Empower House - Specify King George	0	500	500
Rapp. Council Against Sexual Assault	250	250	500
King George Social Services (Food & Heat)	3,000	4,000	7,000
Fancy's Friends	0	250	250
Haiti Micah Project	500	1,000	1,500
King George Fund for Kids (Parks and Rec)	1,000	1,000	2,000
Little Ark Food	3,000	3,000	6,000
King George Clinic (Social Services)	1,500	2,500	4,000
Colonial Beach Free Clinic	1,000	1,000	2,000
YMCA Open Door Program	500	500	1,000
Scholastic Book Funds	0	300	300
King George Schools - Lunch Fund	0	2,200	2,200
King George HS Scholarships (2)	5,000	0	5,000
After Prom Program	0	250	250
KGMS - STEAM Evening	0	500	500
Lunch Bunch	2,000	0	2,000
Sealston Elementary - ROCK Mentoring	0	500	500
Micah Ecumenical Ministries	1,000	1,500	2,500
National Child Safety Council	0	500	500
Love Thy Neighbor	1,000	1,000	2,000
My Life After School	500	0	500
Special Olympics Virginia	0	500	500
Wendy's Feline Friends	0	250	250
Young Life	500	750	1,250
Safe Harbor	500	500	1,000
Opp Shop Board Award to HS Senior	500	0	500
Totals	\$35,500	\$39,000	\$74,500