



Hickory Neck Nuggets

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Hickory Neck Parish Episcopal Church

December 2006

Boelt and Tanner Address Congregation at Hickory Neck Annual Parish Meeting Held November 19, 2006

Fred Boelt Treasurer

This year while serving as Junior Warden and Treasurer, my major emphasis has been on finances. In my written report, knowing that some of you have recently come to Hickory Neck, I have included a brief description of the growth of our campus and buildings from the late 1970s to the present. This also includes how we have gotten to our present debt load of approximately \$725,000.00. I urge you to read that report at your leisure as I feel that all of us need to understand where the debt has come from if we are to succeed in managing its reduction. You will notice that the announcements in the bulletin each Sunday are carrying a breakdown of the debt as we make payments.

Of major concern is the fact that we had planned to include debt service for the \$500,000.00 mortgage in our operating budget with the additional demand note to be paid from the outstanding pledge balances from the Capital Campaign. The debt service for 2007 will be \$50,400.00 on the mortgage. Our pledging for next year, simply put, will not give us the funds that we need for debt service. This puts us in the precarious position of having to use Capital Campaign income for mortgage debt service rather than for the demand
(continued on page 2)

Randy Tanner Senior Warden

As your outgoing Senior Warden, I wanted to leave you with a sense of how I view our parish after serving the last three years on the Vestry, and the last two as Junior and then Senior Warden. As Michael pointed out, it's a little more complicated than you might think.

It's astounding when you think about the fact that we have only been a full fledged parish since 1989. Our dynamic growth can be attributed to a number of factors. The area has been growing in population and moving our way; we have had clergy that enriched us *and* visitors with their wonderful ministry skills; we have had good lay leadership that was forward thinking and recognized the need to grow; and we have always had a welcoming spirit that invited people in and asked them to come back. When people walked through the doors of our church, they may have felt it was crowded, but they were never made to feel it was full. No one has ever been made to feel that this is our church, we've reached our limit, and maybe they should try the church down the street. It's immediately obvious that God is present here.

So we've continued to grow, and in the past three years we have completed the planning and construction of this new chapel, hired Ann as our Associate Rector, hired Ed as our organist/choirmaster, and just recently hired Hope
(continued on page 3)

Fred Boelt

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note. The problem snowballs, for we will have to attempt to roll over part of the demand note when it comes due in December 2007 and will slow the process of any future expansion. Many of us have made sacrificial gifts to the Capital Campaign that began in November 2004. At this point, I must ask you to prayerfully consider if you can do more. Some of you have paid off your commitment; can you give more? Some of you are making regular payments toward your commitment; can you extend your payments at that level for another year? To those of you who were not here when we had the campaign; it is not too late to join our efforts as the campaign continues through 2007. One time gifts as well as gifts spread over a period of time will be gratefully received.

Today, I am charged with presenting to you the 2007 operating budget approved by the Vestry for your ratification. Over the last several months, I have been asked for a bottom line for this budget and I have repeatedly said that we need \$400,000.00 for operational expenses and debt service. As I have said, we have not received sufficient pledges to allow us to include debt service in our budget. The budget now presented is a very frugal, no frills attempt to get by next year on the incomes pledged and projected. I would like to point out here that without the many hours put in by volunteers; the bottom line would be higher. While part of our commitment

to Hickory Neck or to any church is service, some of the services that you render reduce our budget line items significantly.

Looking now at the budget - to date, we have received 117 pledges for a total of \$301,938.00. Additionally, there are 24 pledging units that pledged in 2006 but have not been heard from for 2007. The stewardship committee and the Vestry are doing follow up and the second line item, "Potential Pledges," is a conservative estimate of what we think can come from that group. The third item is loose plate/ newcomers. You will recall that for the 2006 budget, we used a figure of \$37,000.00 to balance the budget based on "if we build it, they will come." Having not approached that number in 2006, we have again used a more conservative number for next year. Thus, we have projected income of \$341,196.00 for 2007.

On the expense side, salaries are our number one concern. The Diocese recommended a 4% cost of living increase for 2007 and the clergy have been given merit increases as well. When we employed Ed Godshall, our very capable Organist/Choirmaster, our intent was to move him toward full time employment. Next year Ed's time will increase to 30 hours per week with increased compensation and benefits. Hope Brans, our recently employed administrative assistant, will remain at her current level of compensation, at least for now. It should be pointed out that our outstanding clergy are paid rather average salaries based on the diocesan guidelines for our congregational size.

Cuts made to accommodate our under funded needs include only

one paid nursery worker - we're fortunate to have many hours of volunteers helping out there. Also, Choral Scholars are only funded for the spring semester of 2007. If funding is available, they can be reinstated next fall. Many of the program expenses are bare-bones based on committee heads' recommendations and again a superb level of volunteer time and talent. 2007 will be the first full year that we have to maintain three buildings and a 12.5 acre campus. Utilities, maintenance, janitorial service and groundskeeping reflect necessary increases.

Our Diocesan pledge will again be \$12,000.00 for the coming year. Some of you may recall that we had budgeted \$16,000.00 for this year but Vestry cut that back to \$12,000.00 earlier this year when it became obvious that we were having trouble meeting our expenses.

So there you have the state of the treasury. I can only again urge you to prayerfully consider what you can do for the Operating Budget as well as the Capital Campaign. At Hickory Neck or in any church for that matter, a positive, healthy cash flow is based on everyone's personal stewardship.



Randy Tanner

(continued from page 1)

Brans to replace Gini Campbell as our administrative assistant. It's been an exciting time. As we sit in spacious comfort in our new chapel, and look at the staff additions we have made, there's a natural inclination to assume that we are financially sound, perhaps even affluent. That really isn't the case. Your Vestry had to make some tough choices in presenting you with this year's budget.

Let me talk a little about our staff. Ed Godshall is an amazingly talented organist and choirmaster. His talent and dedication bring out the best in our music program and we felt it was important to expand his hours for the coming year. Ann Dieterle is a tremendous asset to our church as Associate Rector. She has done marvelous work with our youth, and will be the spiritual leader of the church during Michael's sabbatical next year. Hope is new, but she has already demonstrated that she will be a fine Administrative Assistant. Michael Delk is an extraordinary rector with ministry skills that far exceed his years. (It says here he is the best preacher in the world. In fact, it looks like Michael's handwriting.) We are extremely fortunate to have the staff that we have, and your Vestry felt it was vitally important to provide them with competitive compensation packages that are still only at the mid-range of the Diocesan recommended levels.

New to the equation this year is debt service on the loan for our new chapel. Based on our current pro-

jections for 2007 contributions, interest payments on the loan will have to be made from capital campaign contributions rather than operating income. At least part of a demand note due at the end of next year will have to be rolled over for another year. So does that mean the outlook is bleak? No. Are we affluent? Again, no.

What we are is a church in transition that has made the jump from a pastoral to a program sized church. As we continue to grow, the added fixed costs from our expansion will be absorbed into our operating budget over time. In the short run, however, we are faced with somewhat of a juggling act as we support our various ministries and provide for our staff as well. We have received many generous pledges of time and talent, and believe me we are thankful for all of them. If you haven't yet been able to pledge your time and talent for 2007, we need your support.

Your contributions will go to help with mundane things such as the gas bill and the light bill, but the best reason I've heard to support our church was expressed by one of our stewardship speakers. I didn't ask Melissa for permission to plagiarize her comments, but I don't think she'll mind. She said she had been attending another church when her family went through a tough time, and her church was there for her family in their time of need. She said her family supports this church today so that it will be there for the next family that needs help - help in their personal life or help in finding the Christ we know.

As I said at the beginning of this report, I wanted to leave you with a sense of the state of the parish as I see it. I've had the opportunity over the past three years to work with an extremely dedicated group of individuals who make up your Vestry. You have chosen well in selecting them. It is a hard working, Christ-centered group. Today we've elected four more impressive members as well as three excellent delegates to Diocesan council. I don't know who they are yet, but with the group we had to choose from we can't go wrong.

As I look at our outreach activities and our various ministries within the church and the community, I am constantly amazed at what we are able to accomplish with God at our side. As I look at the new members that have come through our doors, I am more convinced than ever that God's plan is for us to continue to grow as a church family. As I look at our church, I see a church with challenges to face and even more opportunities. More than anything else, my sense of the state of our church is a sense of pride in what we've accomplished and what we can accomplish in the future with God's help.

I consider it a privilege to have served on the Vestry and as your Senior Warden, and for that privilege I thank you.

Meet Maria Kane

Doug Smith



There's a newcomer in our midst and she's a person you should really get to know. She's Maria Kane, a graduate student at the College of William and Mary. She arrived at Hickory Neck Church last August and she preached at the church on November 5th.

Maria was reared near Dallas and after ten years, she and her family moved to Sugarland, Texas where she graduated from high school. Since then she has received her Bachelor of Arts degree in history and classic civilization from Howard University in Washington and spent three years at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina where she received her Master's degree in Divinity. During her summers at Duke, she served internships in Florida and western North Carolina where she preached, made pastoral visits (which she loves to do) and worked with older congregations. She also taught Sunday school, worked with youth and taught a six-week course on Christianity

in America. She began her studies at William and Mary this fall and is working toward earning her Doctoral degree in American Religious History. She hopes one day to serve as a rector, perhaps in the Diocese of North Carolina.

A major crisis in her life occurred when her father died of a stroke when she was sixteen; however, with the help of her family and a very close friend, she managed to get her life back together. At that time she decided that she wanted to share her life with other people and to help teach about God. Her friend stood by her in the time of crisis but was not "pushy" and helped guide her back to a meaningful life.

Maria likes Hickory Neck because of its welcoming spirit and the spirit of each person who has gifts to advance God's work. She adds that the church members have a spirit of love which they share with all people. In Hickory Neck's future, she sees lots of growth reaching out to serve the community. She enjoys the close-knit quality of people at Hickory Neck as well as the good fellowship among them. She has spent the last ten years serving parishes and knowing people to share their joys and struggles with them.

Maria has a variety of hobbies including crafts, scrap booking, making cards, sewing, hiking, rock climbing and cooking. She's a Dallas Cowboy fan, chooses orange as her favorite color and loves to eat at a Cracker Barrel restaurant. She also wants a dog (a dachshund) in the future. Her favorite vacation

spots include Harper's Ferry, West Virginia and Montreal, Canada. She also has the ambition to go to Russia one day and study its history and culture. Kind, intelligent, studious, humorous and thorough in everything she does, that's Maria. We are truly blessed to have her in our congregation.

Carefully Carrying The Light

Joan Forrest

The wind continually threatened to extinguish the flames of our tiny candles as we twisted and turned to shield them. Picking steps carefully, so as not to fall upon the rough terrain, it was still difficult to navigate in the darkness on unfamiliar ground. Though each participant silently and carefully discerned their own steps, we traveled together, each one bearing a flickering light, as we made our way to the gathering place. It was amazing how such tiny flames, when grouped together, illuminated the way. The banding together of the members not only shed light on the path but served as a shield against the sudden blasts of wind and we arrived in silence with each tiny flame still aglow.

This experience on a retreat at Chanco reminded me in some ways of the spiritual journey. It is central for each individual to pay close attention and prayerfully discern the direction of the next step on the

journey for the terrain beneath is different for each journeyer. While making this adjustment of individual footing it seems also essential to be made aware of the importance of holding a light for one another. With just a tiny turn or twist, we may shield our neighbor's candle against the constant winds of change.

I think of Mary, the mother of our Lord, and how carefully she must have picked her steps as she carried Jesus. I imagine her lovingly shielding her precious cargo from the external forces on earth. I think of those who traveled beside her and wondered at their response to her burden. Did they make any shifts in their own direction to shield her? Would their actions have been different, her travel smoother, her lodging more comfortable, her meals more nourishing, had they only known and believed that she was carrying The Light of the World?

The journey through Advent is heralded as a time of waiting for the arrival of the Light of Christ to come into the world. Yet, we know the Mystery of Christ, the revelation of God Himself, is not a future prospect but a present fact...a fact that is revealed on our daily earthly walk, for the Kingdom of God is in the midst of us, now. Let us not miss it. May we be vigilant in our watch and strive to keep the flame of love aglow in our hearts as we fan that blaze with prayer, worship, and service to others in Christ's name... being ever mindful that we are entrusted with carrying that Light and spreading the good news of a God who is Light in the midst of darkness...a Light that withstands the winds of change.

In holy silence may we now prayer-

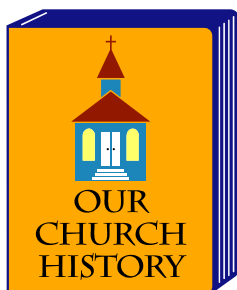
fully and reverently pick our steps through Advent. May we carefully carry the Light so others may know the truth of God's love. For it is God who gives us the light and the strength and the courage to fulfill the task, share our burdens, spread the good news and journey with hearts ablaze.

"For once you were darkness but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light - for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord."

Ephesians 5:8-10

Our Lengthy Traditions

Martha W. McCartney



In 1752 the church wardens of Blisland Parish, which included Hickory Neck, the parish's Lower (easternmost) Church, sent to

England "for a sett of Plate for the Parish." They used funds that a parishioner had bequeathed expressly for the purchase of communion silver and money they raised from the sale of a piece of real estate. Hickory Neck's silver arrived during 1753 and immediately was put to use.

A colonial church's communion silver consisted of a flagon, a chalice, and a paten. Its ornaments normally included an altar cloth of heavy silk, velvet, or damask that was used to cover the communion

table. Over that was placed a "fair white linen cloth" upon which the Holy vessels were set, and then covered. Churches usually had frontlets or cloth hangings for pulpit and the reading desk (lectionary). On the pulpit was a cushion upon which the rector could place the text of his sermon. A large Bible and two oversized Books of Common Prayer were available for the use of the minister and his clerk. While the clergyman was conducting the worship service, he wore a surplice. However, he removed it while delivering his sermon. Blisland Parish's vestry records reveal that on at least one occasion the vestry sent to England for silk tassels and fringe, silk lace, and special fabrics from which its altar hangings, cloths, and surplices were fabricated.

Around 1917, when Hickory Neck Church was reconsecrated and fully restored to ecclesiastical use, members of the congregation donated silver, which was melted down and made into a chalice and paten. More than three decades later, a wafer box, wine cruet, tray, and credence shelf were donated to the church by the family of one of its original trustees.





Spotlight on Our New Administrative Assistant - Hope Brans

Terri Christin



“At the still point of the turning world. Neither flesh nor fleshless; Neither from nor towards; at the still point, there the dance is,…” - T.S. Eliot (from the Four Quartets)

Our new Administrative Assistant at Hickory Neck, Hope Brans was born in Ottawa, Canada. The daughter of an American mother and Canadian father, both of her parents were highly educated and seem to have inspired in her a lifelong love of learning. Her fascinating life journey has taken her all over the turning world and fortunately for us brought her here to a still point in Williamsburg, Virginia in 2002.

Hope’s father was in the Canadian Foreign Service, taking her as a young girl to live in Rome and Copenhagen. It wasn’t until she was 13 years old that her family returned to Chicago in the United States. She completed high school in Chicago and graduated from Wheaton College, spending many summers in Vienna and traveling throughout Eastern Europe. Life was very different

for people living in those countries then. She speaks about vivid memories of the lack of freedom and the extreme difficulties moving in, around and out of those countries - “The tearful goodbyes at border crossings, the sight of people parting, not knowing if they could ever be able to return. The way you just wanted to kiss the ground when returning to free countries.”

Eventually, Hope moved to New York where she earned her Master of Arts at Columbia Teachers College. She taught school for one year, before returning to Chicago where she spent two and one half years in a PhD program studying East Indian religions. She worked at the University of Chicago and the Art Institute of Chicago in the Development Offices. It was during this time that she was re-introduced to a casual friend she had known in high school. They were married six months later and moved to San Antonio, Texas.

Hope worked as a librarian at a private school for two years before devoting her time and efforts to raising her daughter. When Chantal was about four years old, the marriage ended, and having to raise Chantal on her own, she chose to return to Canada where there would be the support of her parents with child care. She spent the following ten years working at the Bell Canada Phone Company, eventually accepting an early retirement as a manager.

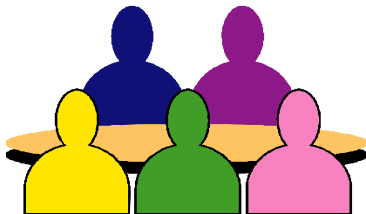
Hope has long held interests in

needlework and even opened her own shop in Canada for a few years. She continues to share a love of horses with Chantal and has trained guide dogs for the blind.

So what finally brought her to Virginia? Her daughter was attending St. Lawrence University in New York, when she made a trip to Australia with strict orders not to fall in love so far away from home! But Hope heard from her daughter within three weeks calling to say she would not be home for Christmas. Hope met her soon to be son-in-law at Christmas that year. The couple eventually settled in Williamsburg where Erin works at the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. Chantal finished her Masters degree in Public Policy at the College of William and Mary and now works at the National Center for State Courts.

Hope came to Virginia to live near her daughter and help with plans for the wedding, which took place in 2003. She has worked locally in the William and Mary admissions office and most recently at Patriot’s Colony. Hope is an active member of Bruton Parish Church. And at this writing, Hope is most excited expecting to see her first grandchild within weeks! She loves the friendliness of Hickory Neck Church and how everyone seems to feel ownership in the church. Hope says she has had a warm reception from everyone and that it has meant a lot to her.

Welcome Hope!



Vestry Highlights

Nancy Geddes

The Vestry met in the Parish House on November 14th for its monthly meeting. Minutes from the October Vestry Meeting were approved

The Treasurer's Report was reviewed and approved (see page 9). A complete review of the proposed 2007 operating budget ensued. The detailed Operating Budget for the year 2007 was unanimously passed for presentation to the congregation at the Annual Parish Meeting, scheduled for Sunday, November 19, 2006.

The Rector's Report included personal and operating plans for the 2007 sabbatical period. Michael noted that he would also review these plans, in detail, at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Reports from the Newcomer's and Youth ministries were given; and David Ware, Trustee, was re-elected to another term as one of the three legal representatives of Hickory Neck Church.

The next regular meeting of the Vestry will take place on Tuesday, December 12th at 7:00 p.m.

Please note that the official minutes of the November Vestry Meeting will be approved at the December meeting and published on the church web page following that meeting.

Celebrating Christmas at Hickory Neck

The Reverend Michael L. Delk

Every seven years or so, the calendar plants December 24th on a Sunday, which means we have the privilege of participating in two great occasions on one really long day. Here's how we plan to handle this at Hickory Neck.

The morning of December 24th will be just like any other Sunday at Hickory Neck Church, with a few special twists. Holy Eucharist Rite I will be held in the Historic Chapel at 8:00 a.m., with Holy Eucharist Rite II at 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. in the new chapel. We will be observing the 4th Sunday of Advent. At the 9:00 a.m. Eucharist, the Ministry of the Word will be the Children's Christmas Pageant, followed by Holy Communion. At 10:15 a.m., the men of the parish will be serving breakfast in the new chapel narthex.

The evening of December 24th, we will celebrate Christmas Eve with three Eucharists, all in the new chapel. At 5:00 p.m. we will have a service geared toward children, including a children's sermon. At 8:00 p.m. we will have a Festival Holy Eucharist, and at 11:00 p.m. we will have a Solemn High Mass, which may include the use of incense. On Christmas morning, December 25th, we will have our usual simple Eucharist at 10:00 a.m. in the Historic Chapel.

It will prove a crowded yet joyous opportunity to anticipate Christ's

Coming and celebrate His arrival. We hope you'll be able to join us as we give thanks for the Incarnation of God.



Nugget Notes

At Hickory Neck, we welcome everyone to participate in everything freely, member or non-member. However, if you would like to become an official member of Hickory Neck, we want to make that happen for you. Simply call our office, 566-0276, or speak to Father Michael or Pastor Ann. There are several ways to join. If you have not yet been baptized, we would be overjoyed to speak with you about receiving the Sacrament of Baptism. If you are already baptized, we can transfer you in as a baptized member, and if your letter of membership resides in another congregation, we can write them and affect the transfer. Official membership entitles a person to vote and stand as a candidate in parish elections, but making the commitment of membership is also a good way to affirm your commitment to the mission of Jesus Christ in this place.

All knitters are invited to become a part of Hickory Neck Prayer Shawl Ministry. The purpose of this ministry is to meet as a prayer group and knit shawls to be given to those who are in crisis or need. This is a very simple knitting project requiring size 11 or 13 needles and three skeins of yarn. The
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Tough, Not Easy, But Worth It

The Reverend Michael L. Delk

Years ago, I spent an hour a month with a spiritual director called Hank. He was supremely patient, full of wisdom, and always encouraging. Hank taught me about the contemplative prayer exercises of St. Ignatius, which were very difficult for me to practice. On the rare occasion when I arrived in his modest office with some notable progress to report, Hank invariably offered the same peculiar mix of praise and warning. "Congratulations," he would announce, "but I'm so sorry. It's going to be tougher from here on out." And that prediction proved consistently true.

More obstacles would fall into my path that following month. External factors beyond my control and internal impulses that *seemed* beyond my control would conspire to disrupt the contemplative discipline I had worked so diligently to build up. It was very upsetting to me, perhaps because I had embraced the illusion somewhere along the way that being a Christian was supposed to be easy. At the very least, I expected things to get easier as I went along.

But that simply isn't true about the path we walk, as much as we might like it to be. Being a Christian is no easy thing, ever. There are certainly plenty of perks: life with a loving community; a higher sense of meaning and purpose; a deeper quality of peace; the prom-

ise of resurrection – stuff like that. But it's tough to be a Christian, and no amount of wishing it weren't so will change that.

What makes it so tough, I think, is that following Jesus requires a radical commitment to live differently, and being different has always been frowned upon. Even in our highly individualistic society, the desire to conform is so great that it lures many to self-destruction. The power of peer pressure, far from being limited to our insecure youth, can influence and corrupt those who seem strongest, making them slaves to fads and fashions and standards that have nothing whatsoever to do with following Jesus.

What makes the toughness of it bearable, I think, is that we share this struggle with each other and with a great cloud of witnesses who have gone before us. From the Book of Hebrews this morning we hear words initially sent to first and second generation Christians who last walked the Earth nearly 1,900 years ago. If you read the entire book, it quickly becomes evident that the people this was written for had suffered significant persecution, and needed encouragement to endure. To this end, the writer reminds them (and us), "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."

In other words, "What did you expect?" The guy you're following got tacked up to a cross, not because he spread the message, "Can't we all just be nice and get along," but because he proclaimed that in his person the prophecy of

scripture was fulfilled -- a prophecy that frightened and angered people; a prophecy of justice and mercy that threatened the powerful and self-righteous so much, they had little choice but to kill this embodiment of the prophecy named Jesus. To do otherwise would have required radical change on the part of those who had the most to lose. So they killed him. And this man is the example you've committed yourself to following. So what did you expect? That it was going to be easy?

Many would say, "Yes." Jesus did the heavy lifting for us, and comparatively we have little to do, but the mature among us know better. Jesus did what we could not do for ourselves. He provided us salvation through his self-sacrifice on a cross, but this does not mean that the way is wide and smooth, rather straight and narrow – and dare I say, bumpy. Even a cursory reading of the New Testament reveals the intense struggle endured by our ancestors in the faith, and to suggest we have no share in that struggle deprives us of an important part of our heritage. And worse, it dodges an important part of our Christian duty.

God "takes no pleasure in anyone who shrinks back," the author of Hebrews warned. Are we tempted to shrink back? I think so. People have always been tempted to shrink back. Without the temptation, there would have never been any need for warning or encouragement. The question, then, really is not, "Are we tempted?" but "Will we overcome?"

Right now at Hickory Neck, I sense that many are tempted to shrink back, and I think there are many reasons for that. I think some of us are tired of all the growth and change and would like to return to simpler days when it was easier to know everybody and be known by all. I think some of us are frightened by the future, because we don't know what the future might bring, but we do know the trajectory of this parish and where that trajectory might lead us, and to be honest, it scares me a little, too. I think we may be tempted to shrink back because we want Church to be the one place in our swirling world where nothing ever changes. We want some part of our reality to remain fixed and constant, but Jesus bids us follow, and to follow, we've got to keep moving. We've got to resist the temptation to shrink back.

"But we are not among those who shrink back," are we? It's never been our way. For decades now, our desire has been to know Christ and make Him known; to make a friend and be a friend, and bring a friend to Christ. Our tradition here is change. Our tradition here at Hickory Neck is being different. But it's going to be tougher now. We will face obstacles, both material and spiritual. But we've been there before, and Christ has brought us through, because when he reached down to lift up us, we stretched our hands up high. "Do not, therefore, abandon that confidence of yours; it brings a great reward. For you need endurance." We need that endurance for our own sake, but also for many outside our community who do not yet know how hard it can be to follow Jesus, or how wonderful. We need that endurance to show the world, it's not easy, but as far as we're concerned, it is worthwhile. We

need that endurance to persist in a witness too precious to lay aside.

Congratulations, but I'm sorry. It's going to be tougher from here on out. "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God." Praise Jesus. Amen.

Editor's note: All of Michael and Ann's sermons are posted on the church web page. However, we felt that this sermon, which was preached on the day of the Annual Parish Meeting, should be available for all to read.

December Celebrations



Birthdays

- 3 - Malcolm Boswell
- 3 - Benjamin Delk
- 4 - John Dutro
- 4 - Martha Burian
- 5 - Nancy Snyder
- 6 - Bryce Corlett
- 7 - Caroline Dozier

- 7 - Karen Small
- 8 - Harrison Gay
- 9 - Reen Field
- 10 - Ridge Kemp
- 10 - Doug Smith
- 11 - Don Seeterlin
- 15 - Joseph Banks
- 16 - Tony Casanave
- 17 - Prince Butler
- 18 - Noel Sinclair
- 19 - Mark Paul
- 20 - Bill Harrison
- 20 - Shannon Houser
- 22 - Evelyn Smith
- 22 - Angela Casanave
- 23 - Vicki Parker
- 24 - Michael Wilson
- 24 - Alona Casanave
- 26 - Dave Forrest
- 26 - Christopher Lemos
- 28 - Debby Corlett
- 30 - George Bridewell
- 30 - Jay Easter
- 30 - Sherman Lewis
- 30 - P. J. Casanave
- 31 - Joy Tanner

Anniversaries

- 1 - Bill & Alita Small
- 5 - Mark & Barbara Paul
- 21 - Clay and Mary Brittain
- 22 - Tony & Alona Casanave
- 22 - Ben & Bonnie Manning
- 26 - Chris & Melissa Casheros
- 28 - Christopher & Charlotte Ellmers
- 28 - Aaron & Toni Small



YTD Budget Income	\$264,340.90
YTD Actual Income	\$243,744.48
YTD Budget Expenses	\$264,341.20
YTD Actual Expenses	\$249,631.25
Loan Balances	\$734,676.00

(as of 10/31/2006)



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"Rooted in history and embracing the future, through Christ"

Nugget Notes

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group meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month in the Parish House at noon. Bring your own lunch. Call **Lynn Kelley** 566-1891 or **Kathy Ramsaur** 565-0263 for more details.

The church will be decorated for Christmas on December 23rd, starting at 9:30 a.m. All are welcome to help, especially the youth group. Refreshments will be available. For additional information, call **Barbara Laroche** at 566-0122.

For anyone who would like to send a Christmas card to **Kyle Lukovsky**, there will be a collection box in the Parish House between December 3rd and December 10th. Kyle will be spending Christmas with the U.S. Navy in Kuwait, and Katrina would like to send him a big box of cards from his friends at Hickory Neck. Katrina can also provide his mailing address to anyone who would like to individually mail him a card. The postage is the same as for a card mailed anywhere in the United States.

On August 17, 2006 the president signed the The Pension Protection Act of 2006. This Act permits individuals to rollover up to \$100,000 from an Individual Re-

tirement Account (IRA) directly to a qualifying charity without recognizing the assets transferred to the qualifying charity as income. This provision applies to distributions made after 12/31/2005 and until 12/31/2007.

Summary:

- Distributions are made by the IRA custodian, in a trustee to charity transfer.
- The donor should NOT take possession of the distribution.
- The donor must be 70 1/2 by the date of the transfer.
- Gifts from IRA assets will qualify for Required Distribution and not be counted as income.

Consult your financial advisor for additional information.

The first Friday night of each month is now Game Night in the Parish House. Come and indulge in the simple joy of playing

games with friends old and new. Bring your own game, or join with others. All games are welcome: Strategy, Board and Card games. The sole purpose of this event is to have fun. Snacks are available, but dine before coming. No sign-up required.



Baptisms

Brette Nicole Miller
 Luke William Aubrey Barnes

New Members

Carl Aschman
 Maude Boring
 Debbie Coles
 David & Mary Eybers
 Harry Fellbaum
 John Greenman
 Gavin Landry & Michelle Passalacqua
 Jack & Joan Whitla

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January Deadline - December 15th