



# Hickory Neck Nuggets

Hickory Neck Parish Episcopal Church

December 2009

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## Holy Waiting

The Reverend Lauren McDonald

I'm writing this on a dark, stormy night. The remnants of Ida have merged with a coastal low to produce a nor'easter that is pummeling the Virginia coast with wind and rain. The power is out. My living room is mostly dark, illuminated only by the glare of the computer screen and the soft flicker of candles (scented, so I'm beginning to sneeze.) I can't watch television or check the Internet. My home phone is dead and my cell phone has only a tiny bit of juice left. I tried to read by candlelight, but my forty-year old eyes protested. Since there's nothing to do, I'm stuck waiting.

Storms and power outages disrupt our routines and force us to take a break from our regular flurry of activities. We can't distract ourselves but are forced to sit in the darkness and wait. I find waiting to be tedious and boring. My legs get restless, and I search my mind for activities I can do to pass the time. There's no one for me to talk to; all I can do is wait, wait for the lights to come back on, wait for it to be time to go to bed, wait for the storm to pass.

As the storm rages in the darkness outside, I sit inside and wonder why it's so hard to wait. We hate waiting, don't we? We hate to wait on cars driving like snails in front of us. We hate to wait in line at stores, and so we impatiently scan the other lines to see if another one is shorter. We hate to wait in doctor's offices or for test results or for summer vacation to arrive. As a child, waiting for Christmas and the arrival of Santa and his bounty seemed interminable. We hopped from one foot to another, eagerly opened each box on the Advent calendar, and asked, "How much longer?"

As adults, we're not much better. Advent is a time of waiting, of preparation. It's a time when we simultaneously wait expectantly for the birth of the Son

of God and anticipate his coming again. It's a time for sitting still and reflecting on who we are as Christians and how we can make space once again in our hearts for the coming of the Christ child. Advent is the beginning of the Christian new year, and as such would be an appropriate time for searching our souls and looking deep inside. How will we commit ourselves again to Christ?

Instead, though, we fill our time with frenetic



activity. We shop and eat and go to parties and shop and cook and run from place to place and eat and shop until, on Christmas Day, we drop with exhaustion. In the darkest time of the year, when the seeds and bulbs are burrowed in the ground, waiting through the cold and dark until they emerge with new growth in the spring, we run ourselves ragged so that we don't have to notice that we are waiting. Instead of being still and listening and looking inside to see where we need to grow, we fill our time with productivity so that we don't have to get too close to the dark waiting spaces inside us. Being still is too uncomfortable.

In her book, *When the Heart Waits*, Sue Monk Kidd tells a story about going on retreat to a monastery and observing a monk sitting perfectly still. When she later asked him how he could bear sitting there doing nothing, he replied, "When you're waiting, you're *not* doing nothing. You're doing the most important something there is. You're allowing your soul to grow up. If you can't be still and wait, you can't become what God created you to be" (22).

God is calling us to wait this Advent. To wait on the birth of a child. To wait on the return of the risen Lord. To wait for our souls as they burrow deep in the winter soil and receive the nutrients they need to emerge again, a little farther along on the spiritual journey. As I wait in the darkness this stormy night, I pray that each of us will make the time this Advent to be still and wait for our Lord to come. May we all find peace in the waiting.

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## This Joyous Christmastide Worship

**The Reverend Michael L. Delk**

Our Christmas worship this year will follow a fairly familiar pattern. The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent on December 20<sup>th</sup> will include our usual schedule, with Eucharist at 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., and 11:15 a.m. Our Children's Christmas Pageant will happen in the New Chapel at 5:00 p.m. that afternoon.

Christmas Eve, our 5:00 p.m. Children's Eucharist will be a mix of old and new, replicating some elements of last year's celebration, while altering the

liturgy somewhat to make it even more accessible for both young and old. As usual, this will be an abbreviated Eucharist, less than an hour, complete with an interactive sermon.

Our 8:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. Festival Eucharist will feature the great hymns and reverent order of our Anglican heritage, with the choir singing at the 8:00 p.m. service. However, this year we will not be using incense at our midnight mass. Once again, we celebrate on Christmas Day with a quiet Eucharist in the Historic Chapel at 10:00 a.m.

The following Sunday, December 27<sup>th</sup>, we will continue celebrating Christmas with our regular 8:00 a.m. Eucharist, followed by a Service of Lessons and Carols with Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m. Notice that we are combining our 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Eucharist for this special occasion. Join us as we hear again the story of God's love and saving grace throughout human history. We will have our Parish Choir present, along with plenty of our favorite Christmas carols.

On Wednesday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 p.m., we conclude the season of Christmas with The Feast of the Epiphany, which marks the arrival of the magi, who followed the star to the manger where Jesus lay. This feast also launches a new season that focuses on the Light of Christ revealed to the world. After worship, we will celebrate the Lighting of the Greens, weather permitting, a huge bonfire consisting of our Christmas greens and trees. The flame symbolizes the Christ-Light shining in the darkness, and it's a lot of fun, too.

We hope you can participate in as many of these worship opportunities as possible. The holiday season can be awfully hectic, and it sometimes feels as if there simply isn't enough time. But we can easily lose track of the real meaning of Christmas, if we allow our frenetic activity to keep us away from worshipping the true reason for the season.





## Spotlight on Caroline Dozier

Jim Izzo



When Caroline Dozier turns 100 years young this month, she will be able to celebrate her birthday twice – once on December 7<sup>th</sup>, the actual date of her birth, and also on December 6<sup>th</sup>, the day her family, friends, and neighbors will come together to honor her at a

reception. When asked what she planned to do the day after her big party, Caroline said, “I’ll probably need to rest.” Not something normally at the top of her list when you consider all the things she has done during her life.

After graduating from The College of William and Mary, Caroline Rawlings White taught for four years at Toano School (English and physical education). Her next job was for the Department of Commerce, working on the census. During that time she began dating Ike Dozier and helped his father run Peninsula Bus Lines (which became Greyhound), conducting chartered historical tours along the James River Estates.

She married Ike in 1930 and moved into an historic house on Forge Road in Toano, which they named Warrenton. There she began a different type of work -- agriculture -- on a large farm (approximately 1,000 acres) for many years. “I learned what I needed to know with Ike’s help, and we planted lots of crops. By the 1950’s we were well into our operation.”

While still “a farmer’s wife,” she served as Toano’s postmaster for 26 years, the first woman in town to do so. “The best part of being a postmaster was the people.

I just love people. I knew everybody.” When asked which one of her various jobs she liked best, Caroline replied, “I’ve enjoyed every one of them, and there’s not one I would not go back to if there was a need.”

Her civic activities included the Red Cross, United Fund, Woman’s Club of Toano, Jamestown Beautification Committee, James City County Chamber of Commerce (of which she was the first female vice-president). She was also a member of the Board of Trustees of Williamsburg Area Community Hospital.

One of the founders of Hickory Neck Episcopal Church, Caroline served as secretary and register of the Vestry, secretary and president of the Women’s Guild, and president of Women of the Church. Caroline and Ike raised a son, Pete, who eventually had two sons (Bo and Ben) and a daughter (Betsy) of his own. Caroline has one great-grandson (Kenny) and two more great-grandchildren are on the way. Although Ike died at the age of 51 in 1960, Caroline continued to work on the farm and in the Post Office, from which she retired in 1986.

She has always enjoyed learning and reading, “histories especially, because I live in such an historic area.” Traveling has also been a source of enjoyment for Caroline. She once toured Europe for six weeks with her sister-in-law Ruth. “My family kept calling me, asking when I was coming home. I was always anxious to get back to Virginia.”

It is not possible to mention all the achievements or all the important people in the life of Caroline Dozier, but she insisted that her two primary caregivers, Norma Hagerman and Betty Golderos be included in this brief biography. Caroline describes both ladies as “wonderful,” and they feel the same way about her. “She’s a great person,” says Norma, “I have a special bond with her.” Betty (whose as-

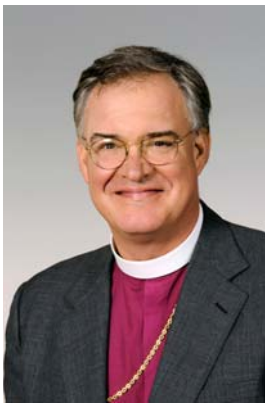
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sistance made this article possible) says, “She’s always had such a wonderful disposition. Her generosity and kindness are amazing.” Caroline’s comment, “I’m grateful for everything that’s come my way,” is characteristic of the attitude which accounts, in part, for her long and productive life.

*(The 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration of Caroline W. Dozier will be held at the Traditions Golf Club at Stonehouse, 9700 Mill Pond Run, Toano, on Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.)*

## Bishop Hollerith Visits on December 6<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

The Reverend Michael L. Delk



On Sunday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, Bishop Hollerith will make his first formal visitation to our parish to confirm, receive, and witness the reaffirmation of faith of a dozen members. He will also preach and celebrate Holy Communion. On that Sunday, a new bishop’s chair, designed and hewn by Tony Casanave, upholstered with canvass work by Hope Brans, and paid for by memorial contributions in memory of the Reverend Norman Forde, will be dedicated and used for the first time.

Our regular 8:00 a.m. Eucharist will occur. However, our 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Eucharist will need to be held together at 10:00 a.m., with a reception in honor of Bishop Hollerith and of those members publicly committing themselves to Christ. We hope you can attend this special event in the life of our community.

## Women’s Spirituality Group

The Reverend Lauren McDonald

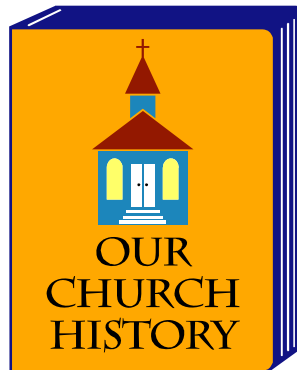
In January Hickory Neck Church will begin having a Women’s Spirituality Group. It will meet on the third Saturday of the month from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Each meeting will include a brief presentation, small group conversation, and time for prayer and worship. We will learn more about the fabulous women of the Bible, some of the female spiritual leaders and saints like Teresa of Avila and Julian of Norwich, and prayer practices to aid our spiritual journeys. Each time we meet we will have an opportunity to talk about how our faith intersects with our daily lives.

There will be no homework, no books to read, no potluck dishes to prepare. All you need to do is show up and participate in this community of women growing deeper in their lives in Christ. If you can’t make it every month, come when you can. Each session will be self-contained so that you can drop in whenever you can make it. Our first meeting will be Saturday, January 16. If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact Pastor Lauren.

## Health Ministry, Colonial-Style

Martha W. McCartney



A quick look at the records of colonial Blisland Parish, in which Hickory Neck Church was located, reveals that the vestry grappled with a myriad of problems that ranged from maintaining parish-owned property to caring for the poor and infirm. For example, in 1725 Elizabeth Jones, whose husband, Evan, was mentally ill, asked for

funds she could use to purchase food for her household. On the other hand, Martha Gooding, whose “Sore Legg” kept her from working, requested medical treatment. A man named John Doran, who seems to have had no medical training, took her into his home and agreed to provide a cure. The treatment may have been worse than the disease, for Martha died within a short time.

Orphaned or illegitimate children often were bound out as servants or apprentices, a policy that relieved the parish of the need to provide for a child’s maintenance. For instance, Anne, the orphaned and illegitimate child of Mary Leaver, an indentured servant, was

entrusted to the care of Roger Williams. He agreed to provide her with room and board in exchange for her labor and a stipend from the parish. Vestry records indicate that in 1756 when Anne Leaver was old enough to be freed, the vestry provided her with her "freedom dues," that is, an allotment of clothing and corn that was supposed to make her self-sufficient. Throughout the colonial period Blisland Parish's parishioners took the less fortunate into their homes and provided them with food, shelter and sometimes, medical care. In exchange, the vestry compensated the caregiver.

As time went on, the expense of providing for the needy became an increasingly serious issue for all Virginia parishes. For instance, when the church wardens of St. Paul's Parish in New Kent County made arrangements to send a poor man to King William County so that the Pamunkey Indians could try to cure his illness, some King William residents voiced their concern that the sick man might become their parish's responsibility. Therefore, the church wardens of St. Paul's Parish sent along a certificate, guaranteeing that they would continue to provide his support. Finally, in 1759, the vestry of Blisland Parish decided to build a workhouse, where the poor could be made to work toward their own support.

## Christmas Pageant

### Paula Simmons

A new version of last year's Christmas Pageant, *The Mystery of Christmas*, is in the making. All are invited to experience this special time as we prepare for the birth of Jesus. The pageant will be Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 p.m. in the Nave of the New Chapel. A reception will follow in the Narthex.

All interested children, youth, and adults are encouraged to be a part of the pageant. We need Nativity participants, readers, prompters, costume managers, musicians, and singers. Only one practice will be held on Saturday, December 19<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 a.m. in the Nave of the New Chapel. Sign up on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, at Sunday school, or contact Pageant Director Pam Chambers (810-3888 or [topamela@cox.net](mailto:topamela@cox.net)) to let her know how you and/or your children would like to participate.

## December Celebrations



### Birthdays

3 - Malcolm Boswell	18 - Sue Edwards
3 - Benjamin Delk	18 - Noel Sinclair
4 - Martha Burian	20 - Bill Harrison
4 - John Dutro	20 - Shannon Houser
5 - Nancy Snyder	22 - Angela Casanave
6 - Bryce Corlett	23 - Vicki Parker
7 - Caroline Dozier	24 - Michael Wilson
7 - Karen Small	26 - Dave Forrest
9 - Maureen Field	28 - Debby Corlett
10 - Ridge Kemp	30 - George Bridewell
10 - Doug Smith	30 - P.J. Casanave
11 - Don Seeterlin	30 - Lewis Sherman

### Anniversaries

1 - Alita & Bill Small
12 - Kay & Norm Cooper
21 - Mary & Clay Brittain
21 - Sue & Chuck Edwards
22 - Bonnie & Ben Manning
26 - Melissa & Chris Casheros
28 - Charlotte & Christopher Elmers
28 - Toni & Aaron Small

If your birthday or anniversary is this month and you are not listed above, please send the appropriate information to [nansteve13@cox.net](mailto:nansteve13@cox.net) or call us at (804) 557-3175.

## I Am *Not* a Nobody!

The Reverend Lauren R. Stanley

Friends: I saw the news over the weekend and decided a response had to be made. I truly don't understand the workings of the Church of England some days, but I am praying for them. When, pray tell, did I become a "nobody"? I want to know, so that I can readjust my thinking, readjust my life.

Over in the Church of England, a proposal is circulating that would limit the powers of some women bishops if anyone – apparently *anyone* – objects to that woman. Rod Thomas, chairman of Reform, a conservative Anglican group in England, was quoted as saying this so-called compromise was "sensible." "It represents a compromise," Mr. Thomas told Reuters. "It doesn't go as far as some wanted, it goes further than some liberals wanted. It is a way in which **nobody** can lose." (emphasis added) "Nobody?" Is that what I am? A "nobody"?

It has taken the Church of England years, and lots of nasty infighting, even to consider the idea of women bishops – this is after taking the same Church years even longer to decide to allow women to be ordained priests.

Just months after agreeing to open the episcopate to women, conservatives are forcing the Church to pull back. The Revision Committee already has voted to change the rules so that certain powers can be removed from women bishops simply to appease those who don't want them. If women bishops face opposition from traditionalists in the dioceses in which they serve, some of their powers – as yet undetermined – would be taken away from them and given to male bishops.

One Church of England spokesman says that in parishes that "don't recognize women bishops and want to look to another bishop," – read "a man" – that diocesan bishop's duties and responsibilities to those parishes would be reduced "automatically."

So there would be no attempt at education, no attempt at mediation, no attempt at reconciliation. Apparently, just one person can object, and poof!

There goes the diocesan bishop's ability to function.

Liberals in the Church are decrying this latest development, claiming it would create a two-tier church, allowing discrimination against women to get even easier than it already is.

As a woman priest ordained for these past 12 years, I can assure you: The two-tier system that the liberals in England fear has existed for millennia. The Church has perpetuated this system throughout its history. Why? Because, apparently, it is *still* acceptable to declare women "nobodies."

I find it ironic that this last brouhaha is taking place in England, which has been ruled, quite successfully, by queens and one woman Prime Minister. It's OK for the nation to be liberal enough to recognize that women are equal, but heaven forbid if the Church were to do so!

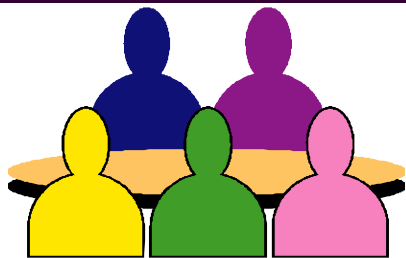
Let me be clear: I am *not* a nobody. I am a beloved child of God, created in God's image, brought into being because God *loved* me into being.

I have no desire to be a bishop, and certainly do not serve in the Church of England, so in theory, this latest development has nothing to do with me. But in fact, it does, because the women who are being called "nobodies" over there are my sisters in Christ. They, too, are beloved children of God, they, too, were created in God's image because God loved *them* into being.

So my heart breaks to hear of this proposal, because it tells me that the Church of England is more concerned with appeasing those who cannot accept a new thing than it is with living into a basic tenet of our theology: That we are *all* created in the image of God. Because that is true, *none* of us is a "nobody." It would be nice if the Church of England were to remember *that*.

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The Rev. Lauren R. Stanley is an Appointed Missionary of the Episcopal Church serving in the Diocese of Haiti, where she works on the Partnership Program and Development.



## Vestry Highlights

### Mary Teale, Register

The regular monthly Vestry meeting took place November 10<sup>th</sup> in the Wilkinson Center. The minutes and the Treasurer's Report from the October meeting were approved.

Fred Boelt, Treasurer, reported that while non-pledge income was greater than expected in October, pledge income did not quite reach the expected target, and the expenses of carpet repairs and the final insurance payment of the year caused the month to finish in the red by \$1100. However, year-to-date the budget remains in the black.

Pastor Lauren McDonald was happy to announce that Abigail Snyder, a member of the Youth Group, was baptized at Hickory Neck on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Father Michael said that Eve Gee and Don Seeterlin will be meeting with Bishop Hollerith in January to discuss the possibility of postulancy, the next step toward ordination. He also announced that he has submitted his resignation as Dean of the Jamestown Convocation effective February 2010 after serving the customary three year term for that position.

Ann Bartholomay, Chairperson of the Parish Life committee, provided a detailed report of the activities of her committee of 40 volunteers. Sunday coffee hour is now provided for both the 9:00 a.m. and the 11:00 a.m. services. The Wilkinson Center kitchen is cleaned weekly. Lunch has been provided for special events, including a meeting with the Executive Board, two workdays for the Buildings and Grounds committee, a Dean's meeting, and a Diocesan meeting. Beautiful cakes have been prepared for Easter and Recognition Sundays. In addition, other special events have been planned such as the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, an Easter egg hunt and receptions

following funeral services.

Fred Boelt presented the proposed 2010 church budget of \$442,279, an increase of \$9,851 (2%) over the 2009 budget. Approximately 75% of last year's pledges have been received with a slight increase in the total pledged. This amount, combined with the pledge of seven new pledges and the anticipated return of the remaining pledges from 2009, should be sufficient to meet the proposed budget.

The next Vestry meeting will be December 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Wilkinson Center.



### Baptisms on November 1st

David Kenton Fisher

Abigail Helen Snyder



(as of 10/31/2009)

YTD Budget Income	\$360,356.70
YTD Actual Income	\$365,886.66
YTD Budget Expense	\$360,856.70
YTD Actual Expense	\$360,316.47

Fred Boelt reports that we were close, oh so close, but October was not quite perfect. Income for the month was down only \$77.00 compared to the budgeted amount. We made our last insurance payment for the year and repaired the Wilkinson Center carpet, both necessary expenses, but they did push overall expenses over budget and October ended \$1,141.27 in the red. However, the good news is that year-to-date, we are still \$5,570.19 in the black. With your help, we will end the year in the black. This is quite a feat, considering the stress of the economy. It all goes to further prove that we truly are a community of faith, and we are committed to taking care of our congregation as well as spreading assistance and hope among those in need.



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## Nugget Notes

A big thank you goes out to all Hickory Neckers who have helped this year with the From His Hands ministry. Extra thanks go to **Linda McGee** who planned and supervised our June meal, to **Alita Small** who planned and supervised our September and December meals, to **Chuck Jundt** for being our liaison to From His Hands, and to **Gary Harvey** who has supervised the serving and has driven the Salvation Army truck all year. For fear of leaving someone out, I won't try to name everyone else who has helped, but thank you to all who have helped cook or serve or made phone calls. Each time we serve, we are providing a much needed meal to our neighbors in Grove. We already have the dates for our From His Hands servings in 2010. Please mark them on your calendars: March 4<sup>th</sup>, July 29<sup>th</sup>, September 3<sup>rd</sup>, and December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Those who have participated in the past know how rewarding this ministry is. Those who have not had the chance to participate are invited to give it a try.

Thanks to everyone who chose an "Angel" from the Angel Tree! Please return the gifts by December 5<sup>th</sup>. Be sure to attach the Angel Tree tag to the outside of an *unwrapped* bag. Any questions, call **Nancy Snyder** at 804-557-3175.

The Commission on Prayer and Healing of our diocese is sponsoring a retreat on December 10-12 at Chanco on the James. Structured around the Daily Offices, this time of quiet and recollection will explore the deep sense of longing, desire and awe contained in the Hebrew Scriptures for the Messiah. Drawing attention to our own desire for God makes space for God. Double rooms are \$164, including meals and program. There are a limited number of

single rooms available for \$175, including meals and program. If you are interested in the retreat, please contact **Pastor Lauren**.

The Singles Foyer group will be meeting at Seasons Restaurant located on 110 South Henry Street on Wednesday, December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. Please call/email **Sue Dugan** [susiecue1052@aol.com/221-7091](mailto:susiecue1052@aol.com/221-7091)) if you plan to attend.

There will be no Reading Group in December. The Reading Group will start again in January.

Photos and artwork showing the many wonderful activities our children are doing in Sunday school are displayed on a bulletin board downstairs in the Wilkinson Center.



## NUGGETS STAFF

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**Spotlight Reporter: Jim Izzo**

**Production: Steve Snyder**

**January Deadline –December 15<sup>th</sup>**

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