



Hickory Neck Nuggets

Hickory Neck Parish Episcopal Church

February 2006

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"Back to Basics: A Refresher on our New Chapel"

The Reverend Michael L. Delk



A number of people have made the comment lately, "Gee, the new chapel doesn't look very big." I've had similar thoughts myself, but I'm happy to share the assurances of our contractor, architects, and Project Management Team: "It's bigger than it looks." Apparently, human perception has difficulty making accurate projections of a structure's size until it achieves a solid, three-dimensional form. Once it's walled in, people assure me, we will see with our own eyes how our \$1.6 million commitment has indeed produced a worthwhile building, ample in size and of high quality. I trust those assurances.

In the meantime, though, it might be helpful to remember again precisely what we're doing and why, and what factors influenced certain decisions along the way. This may prove especially beneficial for those who have joined us midstream in this process over the past year. I've also tried to answer in brief several frequently asked questions about what life will be like at Hickory Neck once the new chapel is completed.

1. Could you scoot over, please? The historic chapel is overcrowded most Sundays at 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m., and has been for years. Being squeezed together does elicit a sense of cama-

raderie, but we need more space so that we can continue welcoming new people into our community and into the worship of God. Our new space is nearly three times the size of our current chapel, which will enable us to more than double seating capacity, without any sense of overcrowding. This expanded space will also enhance our ability to move during worship, especially when it comes to sharing Communion. To give you a familiar reference point, the floor space of our nave is about half the size of a high school basketball court.

2. What happens to the historic chapel? We'll keep using it every Sunday for

our Rite I, 8:00 a.m. Eucharist. We will also make it available for weddings and funerals where the anticipated numbers of attendees will fit. Smaller services, such as Ascension, Thanksgiving, Epiphany, and Christmas Day, will continue to be held in the historic chapel. In all, about 70 of our 200 or so annual services will be held in the historic chapel. We hope that sometime in the near future, we can make some needed renovations to the historic chapel.

3. Will we consolidate our 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. Eucharist? Maybe occasionally during the summer, but for the most part, no. Consolidating those services was never part of the purpose of the new chapel. In fact, if we consolidated, we'd have the same overcrowding problem we have now, probably within two years. Besides, the 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. are very different services. The 9:00 a.m. uses contemporary hymnody, whereas the 11:15 a.m. relies solely on the more traditional Hymnal 1982. There are other significant ways in which the two services differ. Offering this diversity of worship reaches a broader range of people. Combining the 9:00 a.m. and the 11:15 a.m. would diminish our worship experience, not enhance it.

4. Is everybody going to fit? Shouldn't we have built something bigger? Back in 2003, we originally aspired to construct a 10,000 square foot chapel, but very quickly we realized this was not financially feasible, unless we were will-

ing to settle for a very low-quality building. At 2006 prices, a 10,000 square foot chapel — at current standards of quality — would cost approximately \$2.5 million, much more than we could possibly afford right now.

Some people are concerned that we'll fill the new chapel up before we know it, and who knows what wonders God might work in our midst over the next few years? However, between our new chapel and our historic chapel, we can host over 450 people at worship on Sunday morning: more than double what we do now. We may get there someday, but if it happens over the next few years, it would be astonishing.

5. Will the auxiliary spaces – the narthex, sacristy, nursery, etc. – be big enough? Well, it depends on how we define big enough. The current narthex is approximately 1,000 square feet. Both the sacristy and the nursery are several times bigger than what we have now. Plus, that nursery is adjacent to the worship space, a tremendous psychological comfort for new families, who up to this point have been asked to leave their infant or toddler in the Parish House, while they worship in another building across the parking lot. For the foreseeable future, those auxiliary spaces have plenty of room.

6. If we keep growing, won't our classroom, meeting, office, and fellowship spaces become overcrowded, too? Yes. Remember that the chapel is the first of a four-phase process that will eventually include the addition of an educational wing and a fellowship wing. As we add those spaces onto the new chapel, the Parish House will be gradually transformed

into an office building for our expanded staff.

The next phase on the plan is a two-story building for classrooms. We don't know when work on that will begin. It could be as early as the end of this decade. If we grow explosively, it could be earlier than that. However, just as we endured a period of overcrowding in the historic chapel, I suspect that we'll be tight for a few years in our classrooms, while we make preparations for a new educational wing. That's just a natural part of how parishes grow. Very few have the financial prowess to stay ahead of the growth curve with their buildings. In other words, in the Church, buildings tend to get built when there's a tangible need.

In the meantime, we plan to use our spaces in creative ways, so that we can get the most out of all of them. For instance, the historic chapel will be used for an adult class during the 10:15 a.m. Formation hour. Likewise, the Parish House will be used for an adult class, enabling us to offer two classes simultaneously on Sunday morning for the first time ever. Coffee hour will occur in the Narthex, one of the reasons we designed it large, while the choirs can rehearse in the Nave. And don't forget, we planned the chapel as a multi-purpose space. The primary use will be worship. However, we can also use the new chapel for large-scale fellowship activities, like big suppers.

7. How are we doing financially? So far, so good. The total cost of the building, site work, fees, and furnishings is just a shade under \$1.6 million. Right now, we have \$1.25 million pledged, and we have received around \$750,000. If everything stays on budget and

everybody completes their pledge, we will carry a long-term debt of \$300,000 on our new chapel. We also have a debt of \$200,000 from the expansion and renovation of the Parish House in 1998 and the acquisition of land in 2003. Our total debt will be approximately \$500,000, and will be financed through a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage. Through the first half of 2007, we anticipate servicing this mortgage through the remaining returns of capital campaign pledges. After that, the monthly service will be shifted to the operational budget, unless more income is received toward the reduction of our debt.

This may feel uncomfortable for some of us, but many churches nowadays leverage their construction in just this way. Perhaps one way to look at it is this: you decide to build a new house that will cost \$320,000. You put \$250,000 down payment on it, leaving you with a 30-year mortgage on the sum of \$70,000. Now the numbers are smaller in that scenario, but it's up to you and your family to pay it off. Right now, Hickory Neck has more than 200 families, seventy-percent of whom are actively supporting the parish financially. I am confident we will be able to service our debt and maintain a high quality of ministry, and that before long, we will find a way to liquidate our debt.

8. It won't feel the same worshipping in the new chapel, will it? Well, yes and no. I will miss the historic chapel, especially on Christmas Eve. I will miss the smell, that old smell of mildew

and candle wax that humbles me and exhilarates me with the message, "People were praying here before you were born, and they'll be praying here long after you're dead, Michael Delk." But the most important part about worshipping really isn't the building, at least for me. It's being with you in the presence of God, praying those ancient familiar prayers and singing the hymns and sharing the Communion. Those are the things that make worship worthwhile.

At first, I expect the new chapel will feel strange, almost foreign, but it will be exciting. Then I expect I'll get terribly homesick for the historic chapel, even though I'll still be in there once a Sunday. But after awhile, when the new chapel has been seasoned with our prayers and our presence, it will begin to feel like home, just like the historic chapel.

9. When will the new chapel be finished? Right now, it looks as if our hopes for Easter have been dashed by foul weather and an overburdened county inspection office. However, if the weather continues to cooperate, we could worship there by the end of April. I have asked Bishop Charles Vache to be available on both Saturday, April 22 and Saturday, April 29, for our consecratory service. By early March, we should know for sure when we can start using the new chapel.

There are probably many more questions out there left unanswered, but hopefully, this list strikes at the heart of what worries us or piques our curiosity most. As always, feel free to approach me or Ann or any member of the Vestry, to ask questions about

how things are going, and what we think they'll be like once we make our transition to this new chapel. I'm looking forward to the next several months, because I believe they will be a delightful period of discovery for us, full of celebration and spiritual growth. And as we wait eagerly – perhaps a tad impatiently – just remember, it's bigger than it looks.



New Members

David Baum
Frances Freeman
John, Jim and Jeff Smack

Weddings:

Melinda Bodary and
David Frank VanDevelder



Visit Hickory Neck's web site at www.hickoryneck.org

February Celebrations



Birthdays

- 1 - Kim Claytor
- 1 - Judy Hodges
- 1 - Beth Paul
- 1 - Ted Ramsaur
- 2 - Gerry Kent
- 2 - Jim McGee
- 2 - Lucy Purse
- 3 - Dorothy Poucher
- 5 - Emma Delk
- 5 - Ron Molrine
- 11 - Jean Jundt
- 16 - Coleman Ragsdale
- 19 - Bruce Manning
- 21 - Connie Boswell
- 22 - Tara Best
- 25 - Vic Shumaker
- 26 - Fred Boelt
- 28 - Adam Lemos
- 29 - Kathy Arcement
- 29 - Alan Zoellner

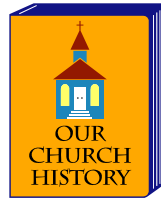
Anniversaries

- 2 - Amy & Chris Miller
- 6 - Joan & Dave Forrest
- 20 - Nancye & Bill Morris
- 27 - Bettie & Tom Guntherberg



Holy Days and Holidays

Martha W. McCartney



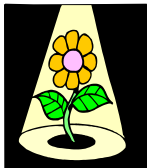
During the seventeenth century, religion and religious law permeated numerous aspects of everyday life. Letter writers often employed Biblical metaphors (especially those of the Old Testament) to describe their sufferings and some colonists named their children after Biblical figures. For instance, the Reverend Richard Buck of Jamestown, deceased in 1623-1624, named his children Benoni (“son of my sorrow”), Gercian (“stranger”), and Mara (“bitter”). The names of plantations, such as Paces Paines and Labour in Vain, also reflect the rigors of surviving in a wilderness environment.

Dates in the church calendar commonly were used to identify the secular dates upon which taxes were due, court convened, and public events occurred. Thus, a Virginia settler’s taxes or rent might be due on Michaelmas (September 9th) or he might be summoned to appear in court on Lady Day (Annunciation Day). From 1626 on, the governor’s council convened as a judicial body on dates linked to the Feast of St. Michael, the Feast of the Nativity of Christ, the Ascension of the Virgin Mary, and the Feast of St. John the Baptist. Thus, the church calendar defined the secular year. It was a practice deeply engrained in seventeenth century culture.

Disasters, whether manmade or natural, typically were viewed as God’s punishment of a sinful people. From time to time, the colonial assembly enacted legislation creating Holy Days (holidays) on which the sett-

lers were supposed to commemorate such events. For example, March 22nd was solemnized because a major Indian uprising occurred on March 22, 1622, decimating roughly a third of the colony’s population. Thereafter, the colonists gave thanks for the lives that were spared, but they also were warned to remain vigilant. April 18, 1644, the date on which a second major Indian uprising occurred, also was commemorated with fasting, prayer, and worship. In March 1661 Virginia’s royalist-leaning assembly decided to declare January 30th a holy day because of King Charles I’s beheading on that date in 1649.

However, holy days sometimes were happy days. In March 1662 the assembly decided that May 29th was to be celebrated on account of the monarchy’s restoration and King Charles II’s ascension to the throne. The assembly also created a holiday so that the settlers could give thanks to God for “deliverance from the plague of caterpillars.” But when a devastating hurricane occurred on August 27, 1667, it was blamed upon God’s anger and afterward, August 27th was declared a day of fasting and atonement. As late as 1759, clergy were warning sinners to repent and good Christians to stay indoors whenever shooting stars were seen, for they were “messengers of God’s Wrath.” Thus, while most Virginia colonists recognized their dependence upon God, how much the relationship was based on fear and how much on love is open to conjecture.



Spotlight on "Outreachers"

Carol Goff



Nursing, journalism, water color artistry, public relations, musical ability! All these diverse interests may seem contradictory. When they're blended by one of Hickory Neck's "Partners in Service" couples, Mary Jo and Doug Smith, you have the harmony of two people dedicated to one another, their family, their church, and a rich variety of interests.

Doug is a "cradle" Episcopalian, and also a "cradle" newspaperman. As a young schoolboy he received a special birthday gift from his mother and turned it into a business as well as a career. The gift was a printing press with rubber typeset, given to him during World War II when public news of the war front arrived via the radio. Doug seized the situation and translated the war news he heard from the radio to a daily newspaper, summarizing war events for his fellow school mates. He sold subscriptions at the cost of five cents per week and distributed the paper daily. Before long he had a thriving readership, even if he wasn't making big bucks.

After graduation from William and Mary (along with his three brothers), Doug continued his passion for journalism and over the years worked for several daily newspapers

as a reporter, sports editor, and editor. His first job was with the Virginia town of Covington's daily paper. Mary Jo, a native of the town, worked for the advertising department and that's how they met. Mary Jo stepped into the power position early when she teased Doug that she was paying his reporter's salary by her success in selling ads for the paper!

After marriage and starting a family, Mary Jo and Doug lived in several places, but when Doug moved into Public Relations work with the Virginia Chamber of Commerce and later with the United States Chamber of Commerce in the District of Columbia, they spent 28 years in Manassas, Virginia. Mary Jo earned her RN while they raised a son and daughter.

When it came time for retirement, they chose Williamsburg and in 1995 moved into the Mews town home development on Longhill Road. One day Mary Jo was walking around the lake there and struck up a conversation with a pleasant gentleman. She noticed an Episcopal decal on his car and mentioned that Doug and she were looking for a church. She asked her neighbor if he went to Hickory Neck. "No, I just run it. I'm the rector there." The neighbor was Jim Kellert. Mary Jo and Doug soon became regulars at Hickory Neck, and with Jim's encouragement, became involved in many of Hickory Neck's activities.

Doug, after serving as Vestry Recorder, was elected to the Vestry for a three year term. He has been a

lector ever since joining, has been active in the Men's Breakfast and Cursillo programs, and continues his newspaper career by reporting regularly for the Nuggets.

After retirement, Mary Jo had the time to pursue her interest in the guitar. Without any formal training, she developed her talent and became a regular with the Praise Band and sang in the choir. She teamed up with Connie Kendrick and they planned Women's Retreats. Mary Jo became active in Cursillo and after developing another interest in painting, she began to work with oils and water colors. Like her love for the guitar, she turned her talent into service for Hickory Neck and now produces lovely water color note cards, with proceeds from their sale going to Hickory Neck.

Mary Jo is also the president of the Foyer Dinner groups, one of Hickory Neck's most active fellowship activities. She organizes the annual picnic for old and prospective members and keeps the program going throughout the year. She also uses her RN skills and volunteers weekly at Old Towne Medical Clinic giving immunization shots there. She and Doug stay fit by exercising three times a week in the cardiac rehabilitation program sponsored by Sentara hospital.

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HNC's Youth Corner



Hickory Neck's junior and senior high groups will be joining in fellowship and fun with the youth from Bruton Parish and St. Martin's. This is a great opportunity for us to meet and interact with other area Episcopal youth. Combined events will be held the first Sunday of every month at the sponsoring parish. On February 5th it will be held at Bruton, and Hickory Neck will host in April.

YES! Update: The YES! Group has performed more than 110 hours of service in the last five months. For the next few months, our service days will take the form of various fundraising events in order to raise money for Relay for Life, a future mission trip, and the school that Hickory Neck Church helped build in Sudan. Special thanks to everyone who helped us brighten Christmas for so many. The middle and high school groups provided food, clothes and toys for two families in need. The younger children donated more than 50 gently loved toys to families in need, and the third to fifth grade class made cards for an Army unit serving in Iraq. We also sent them a box of goodies!

Upcoming Events: Combined Youth Group at Bruton Parish (details TBA) - February 5th. Lenten Suppers to benefit the school in Sudan - Wednesdays, March 1st to April 5th.

Spotlight on "Outreachers" (continued from page 5)

In addition to their Hickory Neck service and active life, Mary Jo and Doug have nine grandchildren with a tenth on the way. They are fortunate to have their daughter, Ann Marie, and family here in Williamsburg and they enjoy making regular trips to their son's home outside of Philadelphia where they can enjoy five of their grandchildren and the future sixth.

Both Doug and Mary Jo are enthusiastic about the growth at Hickory Neck. Doug is particularly excited about the new menu of Bible study and other classes now being offered almost each day of the week. Mary Jo's hope is that, as the church grows, it can preserve the warm personal bonds we all treasure and that a happy blend of old and new members will occur. Like many, she is optimistic, yet also somewhat apprehensive that change and expansion might weaken the sense of family.

Doug and Mary Jo, we are fortunate, indeed, to have two such talented and devoted people in our congregation. Like our other "Partners in Service" couples, you inspire us with your gifts of time and talent to Hickory Neck's mission and we salute you this month for all that you do.



Nugget Notes

It is now official that the **Right Reverend Robert H. Johnson**, retired bishop of Western North Carolina (1990-2004), will be our
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Do You Know Me?

Randy Tanner Senior Warden

Do you know me? We've heard this question asked over the years in a television advertising campaign for American Express. The commercials start with a person who looks vaguely familiar asking the question and then listing his or her accomplishments while extolling the benefits of carrying an American Express card. At the end of the commercial the person's name is typed on a card and their identity is revealed. We're told that carrying the card makes us instantly recognizable in thousands of places. The commercial ends with the phrase, "*The American Express card. Don't leave home without it.*"

Do you know me? It's a question one might ask if we feel we are getting lost as things are moving so quickly around us. Land is cleared, a building is going up, the parking lot is full and the pews are full. Everyone is friendly, but would they miss me if I wasn't here? Our mission as a church is to spread God's word, and we welcome each and every one of the new faces that are joining us Sunday after Sunday. Sometimes though, as we grow, and as we get used to doing things the way a larger church has to do them, some of us may feel that we are getting lost in the shuffle.

Our church is growing at an amazing rate. We are growing so fast that we are bursting at the seams at many of our services as we await the completion of our new worship space in the early spring. As we have learned during our recent



Your new Vestry, pictured from the left: Bill Teale, Lynn Geddy, Fred Boelt, Reverend Ann Dieterle, Reverend Michael Delk, Katrina Luksovsky, Phyllis Faas (Recorder), Randy Tanner, Nancy Geddes, Sue Dugan, Brian Manning, De Fehrenbach, Chuck Jundt and Connie Kendrick. Absent when picture was taken: Donna Casanave.

capital campaign, our church is making the transition from a pastoral to a program size church. We have made the jump in terms of size, but there will also be changes in the way we do things.

One obvious change as we move from a pastoral size is the role of the pastor. In a smaller church, the pastor is often able to be directly involved in most of the activities of the church. Our Clergy are second to none, but as the church gets larger, more of the work has to be delegated. We have a dedicated group of people on the Vestry, and I'd like to be sure that everyone, especially our newcomers, is aware of who they are.

Following is a listing of our Vestry members and their areas of responsibility: Fred Boelt (Junior Warden & Finance), Donna Casanave (Parish Life), Sue Dugan (Pastoral Care), De Fehrenbach (Christian Education), Nancy Geddes (Youth), Lynn Geddy (Parish Life), Chuck

Jundt (Outreach), Connie Kendrick (Worship), Katrina Luksovsky (Newcomers), Brian Manning (Building & Grounds), Randy Tanner (Senior Warden), and Bill Teale (Outreach).

Please contact any of these members if you have a concern about something in their area or if you would like to become involved with their particular ministry. This newsletter is also a valuable tool to keep up with what's going on within the church. A weekly electronic newsletter, the E-pistle, is available as well. Just send an e-mail to Steve Snyder at nansteve13@cox.net to get connected. Communication is vitally important as we continue to grow.

In a few short months we'll be worshipping in our new sanctuary. Things will be less crowded and we'll start getting used to our new space. More newcomers will arrive, and we'll welcome them to God's house with a smile. There

will certainly be some growing pains, but if we communicate and work together, we're going to grow into the church that God wants us to be.

It's going to be an exciting year for our church. It may get a little crowded and hectic at times, but if you're ever wondering, "Do you know me?" the answer is a resounding YES. To paraphrase American Express, Hickory Neck Church wouldn't be the same without you.

Nugget Notes

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"interim-interim." It is anticipated he will begin work the day after Annual Council in February. He will stay with us until mid-July, with one month off during March and April for a prior commitment. It is anti-
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Hickory Neck Parish Episcopal Church
8300 Richmond Road
Toano, VA 23168

Tel (757) 566-0276 Fax (757) 566-0081

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



Vestry Highlights

Phyllis Faas, Recorder

This month's vestry meeting was upbeat - filled with good news in this exciting time of Hickory Neck Episcopal Church. Father Michael reported that construction on our new chapel is proceeding in a timely manner and our treasurer - Fred Boelt, said that the 2005 budget ended in the black. Ann Dieterle reported that there is something happening on every day of the week, except Friday and Saturday, pertaining to adult Christian formation and that our youth are doing very well and even planning a mission trip for what could be the first time in the history of Hickory Neck Church. The vestry members will be attending a retreat at Camp Chanco this coming weekend and will focus on how best to serve the needs, challenges and future of our church family.

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

Nugget Notes

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 cipated that "the interim" will follow Bishop Johnson after mid-July.

Barbara Laroche sends her thanks to: **Betty Harrison, Jessica and Marilyn Hughes, Merri and Alex Kelly, Bonnie Manning, Martha Millhouse, Nancye Morris, Betty Somloi** and my faithful partner in flowers **Jennie McCray** for arranging and making arrangements for Christmas. **Merri, Alex, Bonnie** and **Jennie** also helped get everything into the church and set up. **Merri, Mary Jo and Doug Smith** and **Connie Kendrick** helped to take everything down and clean up. In addition, thanks to **Ben Manning** for getting the tree and thanks to all those who brought greens and berries. With-

out the help of all these people, we would not have had such a beautiful Christmas.

Bring your appetite! The youth groups will again be serving delicious soups following the Lenten program on Wednesday nights, March 1st through April 5th. Homemade soup, bread and drinks will be served in the Parish House for \$3.00 per person. All money raised will be used to provide additional support for the school in Sudan that was built using the money we raised last year.

February 5th is SOUPER Bowl Sunday! Bring canned goods or other non-perishable items for St. Paul's Food Pantry and YES!, the youth outreach ministry, will treat you to delicious baked goods following the 9:00 a.m. service!

NUGGETS STAFF

Editor: Nancy Snyder

Editorial Assistant: Barbara Paul

Reporter: Doug Smith

Historical Reporter: Martha McCartney

Spotlight Reporters: Carol Goff and Lisa Gibson

Production: Steve Snyder

March Deadline - February 15th

E-mail articles to Nancy Snyder at nansteve13@cox.net