



Hickory Neck Nuggets

Hickory Neck Parish Episcopal Church

January 2006

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Dear Hickory Neck,

As she greeted me in the receiving line Saturday immediately following the Ordination service, Dinky Newman, a new member here at Hickory Neck said, "You have to love me! I heard you promise!"

She was referring to the phrase in "the Examination" that said "As a priest, it will be your task...to love and serve the people among whom you work..." My first thought in response to Dinky's declaration was "what an easy task!!!" What an easy task to love all of you. It was great fun to know that my family and friends could finally see first hand what they have heard about for the last five months - that the people of Hickory Neck are loving, fun, good and Godly people.

I said at the reception Saturday that I wasn't sure how I could ever express my thanks for the love and generosity that you all have shown me since I arrived here in Williamsburg, but especially surrounding my Ordination. I have given it some thought, and decided that it simply isn't possible to express the depth of my gratitude, but I hope that you will accept this attempt.

For your support, encouragement and presence - thank you. For the reception, the food and the beautiful decorations - thank you. For the beautiful stole and for the oil supply, both of which I will use in my ministry here at Hickory Neck - thank you. And for the very generous monetary gift - which is a great help as I look to buy my first home - thank you.

I am truly blessed and humbled by each and every one of these expressions of love.

It is a gift and privilege to work and live among all of you. I treasure the time we've shared so far, and I look forward to the years to come.

*God's love and mine,
Curt*

“Growing Pains”

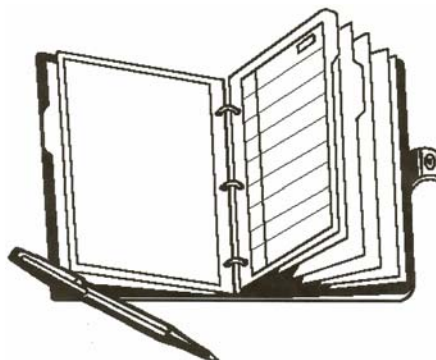
The Reverend Michael L. Delk

Ah, the summer of 1985. It was the best of times, the worst of times. I grew six inches in three months and went from shooting guard to center of the Adairville Junior High basketball squad. My parents shopped for clothes constantly. I grew so fast that stretch marks appeared on the skin of my back. And it hurt ... a lot. Painful leg cramps woke me in the middle of the night. During the day, I ached everywhere. My appetite was insatiable. No matter how much I ate, I was always hungry. And boy was I clumsy. It seemed like my nerves lagged behind my bones and muscles, and I had the bruises to prove it from tripping over and bumping into things. This lack of coordination diminished my already modest basketball skills. In short, it was an amazing yet very difficult summer and fall; all in all, not so different from what we're going through now as a parish family that also represents the Body of Christ.

By every quantifiable measurement – membership, attendance, acreage, programs – we're growing at a furious “six-inches-in-a-summer” pace. I also witness great growth in the even more important qualitative aspects of our Church, namely spiritual maturity. However, just as with a physical body, so with the Body of Christ, growth may cause clumsiness and discomfort. It's only natural. But how we cope

with these growing pains says a lot about our Christian maturity. Do we act as adolescents, full of insecurity and narcissism? Or do we move beyond that to higher standards of feeling and behavior?

Much depends on how aware we are of the reality of growth and the changes it brings. For instance, up until this point, it was rare for more than one event to be scheduled at any given time. In fact, up until a few years ago, there were entire days when the Parish House went



Plan Ahead

completely unused, except by the staff. Increasingly, though, we find our space being used by more than one group at the same time. Part of this is due to new classes and activities; partly, this happens because the diocese and the broader community have discovered our space as a convenient place to meet. In many ways, this is a blessing and an ongoing validation of the foresight of those who expanded and renovated the Parish House in the late 1990's. However, the friction that comes from events rubbing up against each other

can create unhealthy conflict.

To avoid the frustration which may result, it's important to remember a few key facts:

1. Always plan ahead and check the master calendar kept by Gini before you schedule an event.
 2. Please understand that space will be assigned with a premium on practicality, generally according to size and on rare occasions, the need for confidentiality. For example, if you have a ministry team of five people meeting at the same time as a much larger group, you're almost certainly going to be meeting in one of the classrooms upstairs. If people need confidentiality for their meeting, like a diocesan governing body, some areas of the Parish House may be restricted for the duration of that meeting.
 3. Priorities for Parish House use are determined by two primary factors. First, the greater good. Activities that impact a large portion of the parish take precedence over events that involve only a few. Second, first come, first served. Despite this latter provision, though, from time to time adjustments will be made. For instance, when someone dies and their family needs the Parish House for a reception, we try to be as accommodating as possible, which means that your activity may get moved.
 4. Priority will be given to mission essential activities over those that happen at the Parish House simply as a matter of convenience. Bible study and other classes, choir and Praise Band rehearsals, youth
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Meet Penny and Joe Orth

Doug Smith



Penny and Joe Orth have undoubtedly the longest commute to Hickory Neck Church each Sunday. For you see, the amiable couple live on a motor yacht on the Potomac River in Washington, D.C., during the week and commute to their home in Williamsburg on weekends.

Members of Hickory Neck since 2001 (Penny was confirmed here in 2002); the Orths offer a variety of reasons why they enjoy being members of the church. They like the people and their attitude toward religion, toward one another and toward the community. They regard Father Michael Delk and the Reverend Ann Dieterle as giving the church leadership of the highest caliber. All in all, they see Hickory Neck as being a most impressive community. Regarding future growth, Penny sees the church in a period of great growth with the main challenge being the ability to retain our sense of community. Joe sees the church as be-

coming a “forcing function” in the Diocese of Southern Virginia.

Penny was born in Washington, D.C. and graduated from a Quaker boarding school in Pennsylvania and Goucher College in Baltimore where she received a bachelor’s degree in chemistry. She has held a number of positions in research at the National Institutes of Health and the Salk Institute. Currently, she is senior analyst with Native American Consultants. She has been with the organization more than 20 years. The firm is a contractor for the government involving Navy, Indian and FAA programs. Penny has a son, a daughter and four grandchildren.

Joe was born in Newport, Rhode Island, but left when six months old for Hawaii prior to Pearl Harbor Day, December 7, 1941. As a member of a military family, he has lived all over the world. After graduating from Catholic High School in Montgomery, Alabama, he attended the College of William and Mary, graduating with a Bachelor of Science in physics. He worked for the Navy and NASA in programs dealing with underwater weapons, ballistic missiles and space. Currently he is president of the records management group of Guardian Service Group, Ltd. of Baltimore which handles large service type contracts. He has three sons, one of whom is deceased.

Joe and Penny have been very involved in boating activities and have

done extended cruising in the Chesapeake Bay. Penny has been commodore of the Potomac Yacht Club and the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Club. Currently, she is president of the National Boating Federation which is devoted in promoting legislation to assure boating safety. Both Orths have been active in Hickory Neck affairs, serving as ushers, tellers, coffee hour hosts, foyer members and stirrers of the famous Hickory Neck Brunswick Stew.

Despite their many hours on the road in commuting, the Orths enjoy relaxing and trying to establish their lifestyle. They also travel when the occasion arises. For instance, they took a cruise near the Arctic Circle last September and are planning another to Antarctica in February. In a most romantic spot, Penny’s and Joe’s marriage took place on their motor yacht in front of the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. on January 4, 1997. At 74 degrees, it was the warmest January 4th on record for the Washington area.

We’re glad you’re on board, Joe and Penny. May your life’s voyage sail on calm waters always!

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

Growing Pains

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group, fellowship activities open to the parish, outreach activities, ministry team meetings – these are examples of mission essential activities. Family get-togethers, a weekly bridge game, etc, are examples of activities we enjoy sponsoring through the use of our space. However, these activities are less essential to the accomplishment of our core mission of ministry at Hickory Neck.

It takes plenty of communication, coordination, and patience to grow with grace as a parish, and so far, we're doing a great job of it. But as we move forward, it will likely become more difficult, the potential for frustration and conflict – especially around space issues – even greater than before. I hope that by being aware of these challenges, we can more easily overcome them. And I believe my hope is well-founded in the burgeoning spiritual maturity of the people in our parish, all made possible, of course, by God's grace.

When I was a gangly teenager, I never thought I'd grow so fast in such a short span of time, and once it happened, I was afraid the pain would never stop and that I'd never get over the clumsiness and stop bumping into other people and things. But after awhile, and without me really noticing, it did stop. I became comfortable with my new stature, and have been ever since. I think that's how it'll go with us in the Body of Christ at Hickory Neck, too.

January Celebrations**Birthdays**

- 1 - Allyson Houser
- 3 - Quinn Casheros
- 3 - Jason Dodd
- 3 - Lindsey Cicero
- 4 - Marilyn Hughes
- 4 - Buddy Matthews
- 4 - Joy Marie Wade
- 5 - Marta Zoellner
- 6 - Larry Arcement
- 6 - Katrina Buckley
- 6 - Chris Smack
- 7 - Kathryn Parsons
- 12 - Wanda Adsit
- 12 - Gayle Bangert
- 14 - Kimberly Kelly
- 15 - Marie Wilkinson
- 16 - Kathryn Bridewell
- 17 - Chuck DeLorimier
- 18 - Lauren Bridewell
- 18 - C. J. Schrader
- 18 - Rebecca Zoellner
- 19 - Rylie Baum
- 19 - Harry Brown
- 19 - Frank Somloi
- 20 - James Deal
- 22 - Dan Poucher
- 22 - Don Seeterlin
- 24 - Chris Casheros

Anniversaries

- 1 - Liz & Joe Hagy
- 4 - Penny & Joe Orth
- 31 - Phyllis & Don Faas

**Wait a Minute.
But Didn't He Say...?****The Reverend
Michael L. Delk**

Some of you may remember the sermon I gave in October 2004, as we kicked off our Journey of Faith capital campaign. In it, I shared how Stephanie and I were choosing to delay the purchase of a new mini-van in order to fund our contribution to the building of a new chapel. However, some of you may have noticed that Stephanie now has a new car, a few years earlier than anticipated. Here's what happened.

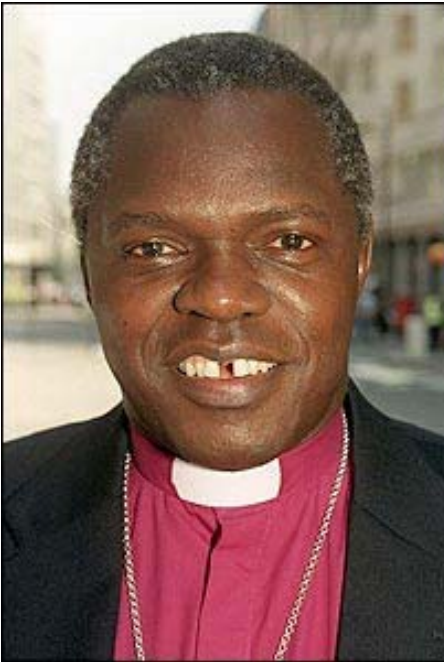
The transmission in Stephanie's car broke. The replacement cost was approximately one-third the remaining value of her car. That car had over 100,000 miles on it, so the likelihood of another major repair over the next few years induced us to look at new cars. We got a good deal on one, so we bought it.

Our purchase of this car will in no way affect our commitment to completing our pledge. In fact, I feel a bit sheepish about providing you with this explanation, because I deeply trust both your practicality and your affection for us. But since this purchase represents a divergence from the plan I articulated in a sermon, I wanted to explain to you why, just in case there were any concerns.



Sentamu - Archbishop of York

Doug Smith



Some 20 persons from Hickory Neck Church were at the 1997 Shrine Mont annual Diocesan summer conference when the keynote speaker was the Right Reverend John Sentamu, Bishop of Stepney in the Diocese of London.

Here's an update from the Associated Press London: To the beat of African drums, a son of Uganda took his throne Wednesday as the first black archbishop in the Church of England, declaring his hope of inspiring the shrinking church with the confident faith of his homeland. John Sentamu recalled that one of his predecessors had dreamed of a black taking the church's second-highest position and told an applauding congregation in York: "Well, here I am!" Sentamu, who moved to Britain in 1974 after clashing with Ugandan dictator Idi Amin, was installed in ceremonies

as the 97th archbishop of York.

At Shrine Mont, Sentamu said that when he was in Uganda, he was facing a firing squad just as the squad broke for lunch. They then decided not to execute him. Our Hickory Neck hymnal contains several African chants taught to us by Archbishop Sentamu.

Cursillo

Laurie Brown

What's a Cursillo weekend like? It's hard to say in only a few words. It's easier to describe the effect it had on me. In a nutshell, I would be attending church had I not gone on a Cursillo weekend, but I would not have a relationship with Christ or be a leader in our faith community. God was very distant to me until that weekend in the fall of 1998 when I attended Cursillo #94. Those three days were the first time that I understood the joy of Christianity and the unconditional love that He has for me. It was there that I gained the confidence that I needed to share my journey with others. But don't just take my word for it. Ask around. Lots of Hickory Neck Church folks have been to Cursillo. Applications are available on-line or in the Parish House.

Following are the 2006 Cursillo Weekends:

- #127 Men's February 16 - 19
- #128 Women's April 27 - 30
- #129 Men's May 18 - 21
- #130 Coed October 5 - 8
- #131 Women's November 2 - 5



Nugget Notes

The next Men's Breakfast will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 21, 2006. The speaker will be Dr. Robert M. Tombes, Director of the Integrated Life Sciences Ph.D. Program at Virginia Commonwealth University. His topic will be "Eggs, Embryos, and Ethics."

Father Michael and Geoffrey Price, Rector of St. Peter's, New Kent, have agreed that we will have our first joint evensong on Sunday, February 5, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. As we await the completion of our new chapel, the 2006 evensong will be held at St. Peter's. In 2007, we plan to host it here at Hickory Neck.

The "Foundations of Faith" course will be taught during the Sunday morning adult Christian Formation hour, beginning January 8th and running through the end of February. This course is designed for anyone interested in learning more about their faith, whether you're new to the Christian faith or have been going to Church for years. If you have any questions, please contact **Father Michael** or **Pastor Ann**.

Adult and youth confirmation classes will be held on Sunday evenings in January, February and March in preparation for the rite of confirmation, to be Held at the consecration of
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Annual Parish Meeting Brings Election, Celebration, and Inspiration

The Reverend Michael L. Delk

On Sunday, December 11, more than 100 parishioners gathered in our historic chapel for the Annual Parish Meeting. We opened with prayer, dispensed with the reading of the minutes from the 2004 meeting, and held an election for Vestry and for our 2007 delegation to the Diocesan Council. Four persons were elected to three-year terms on Vestry: Lynn Geddy, Chuck Jundt, Katrina Luksovsky, and Bill Teale. Three persons were elected as delegates to Council: Nancy Aschiero, Rick Garfield, and Gay Forloine. Three persons were elected as alternate delegates to Council: Bunky Garfield, George Loving, and Bob Williams.

Our Treasurer, Fred Boelt, presented a balanced 2006 operating budget of \$318,625. This figure represents a marked increase over the previous year, because in 2006 we pay a full-year's compensation for our new Associate Rector and our new Organist/Choirmaster. We also assume higher energy and maintenance costs for two-thirds of a year on the new chapel. The budget was endorsed unanimously by the congregation.

The congregation also unanimously ratified a series of proposed amendments to our parish by-laws. The changes will not be detailed here, but a copy of the accepted alterations may be

found on the Vestry page of our website, www.hickoryneck.org, or obtained from the Parish Office by request by calling 566-0276.

The Rector's State of the Parish report emphasized the numerical and spiritual growth of the past year. Father Michael believes that perhaps more than anything else, we are thankful for each other, and the way that God's grace works through us to accomplish our mission of spreading the good news that Christ is alive, the Spirit is moving, and God loves us more than we can ever know. He praised those who helped make decisions about the design of our new chapel, and specifically mentioned the efforts of Fred Boelt and Aaron Small, for their work in financing the chapel and leading the Project Management Team, respectively. Father Michael also spent some time explaining what's happening in the diocese and how the future will bring hard work toward recovery but the promise of a new beginning for the Diocese of Southern Virginia.

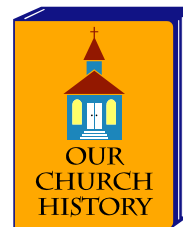
The parish offered its thanks, along with gifts of appreciation, to our three retiring Vestry members: Steve Snyder, Gay Forloine, and Nancy Aschiero. Each contributed to the spiritual leadership of the parish in important ways over their three years of service. Bill Forloine presented two miniature stewardship paddles to Bill Teale and Chuck Jundt for their service as co-chairs of the 2005 Fall Festival. And Father Ron Molrine rose for a

point of personal privilege to give the parish thanks and say farewell, as he and Char prepared to depart for their new home in North Carolina.

The Annual Parish Meeting was an occasion of great joy, with much laughter and applause. A fitting way to celebrate a year of excellence completed, as we look forward to the exciting challenges ahead in 2006.

Definitely Not the "Good Old Days"

Martha W. McCartney



In 1662 Virginia's parish vestries were assigned the task of caring for the poor. In accord with English tradition, local families opened their homes to the destitute (whether vagrant, mentally or physically infirm, elderly or orphaned) and were reimbursed from parish levies. Often, the able-bodied poor were put to work as indentured servants.

In time, however, the ranks of the poor increased. By the mid-eighteenth century, church officials in Williamsburg, like Boston and Philadelphia, were struggling to provide for the indigent. In 1755 the rector and churchwardens of Bruton Parish sought the House of Burgesses' permission to convert a

parish-owned dwelling into a poorhouse and for the right to compel the poor to live there. The legislature authorized *all* parish vestries to build almshouses and to purchase tools and raw materials that the poor could use to produce marketable goods. Each parish poorhouse had an overseer, who could inflict corporal punishment upon those who were disobedient, dissident, or simply refused to work. Up to 10 lashes could be applied to an offender's bare back for each infraction of the rules. Obviously, there were ample opportunities for cruelty and the abuse of power.

The 1755 act for maintaining the poor literally attached a social stigma to the indigent, for each poorhouse inmate was required to wear a colorful cloth badge imprinted with the name of the parish to which he/she belonged. The red, blue, or green badges, worn conspicuously upon the right sleeve, near the shoulder, set the poor apart from the mainstream of society, which openly considered them "nasty" and "despicable." In 1759 the vestry of Blisland Parish, home of Hickory Neck Church, decided to build a poorhouse. However, they took no action and in 1773 the matter was still being discussed. Blisland's colonial vestry records demonstrate that throughout the 18th century, providing welfare support was burdensome to parishioners.

Apparently Bruton Parish didn't fare much better. The parish poorhouse, located upon a hilltop overlooking Queens Creek, near Williamsburg, was a losing proposition and in 1762 Bruton's vestry was obliged to sell three city lots in order to procure funds for welfare. Finally, in 1769 Bruton Parish's vestry rented its poorhouse to a private company, the Williamsburg

Manufactory, a facility for cloth production. It is probable that the cloth factory provided employment to the needy until the close of the Revolutionary War. Afterward, county officials called Overseers of the Poor took on the churches' public welfare responsibilities.

A Continuing and Exciting Journey

Gini Campbell

In this season of Advent while we are waiting and listening, I believe God has called me to go to Seminary and become a minister of the Word. My journey started a long time ago. There are two things I have really wanted in my life. I remember as early as five years old knowing that I wanted a family and I have been blessed with one. In high school my second passion emerged to serve God by becoming a Director of Christian Education. At that time women were just beginning to be ordained as ministers of Word and Sacrament. My father did not support this path for my life therefore it wasn't going to happen. So I took the road I had to, which was to serve God through lay ministry in the church.

I have served in many roles in the Presbyterian Church over the last 35 years. Now that Sandy and I are empty nesters, I began pondering what I should be doing in the next phase of my life. In this season of Advent, waiting, wondering and watching, the call to ordained ministry became very loud and clear. Lo and behold, God hasn't given up. A new birth and new path has opened up for me. I have been both encouraged and overwhelmed with the support of my

family and friends as I embark on this great journey.

I have informed the Session of Williamsburg Presbyterian Church of my desire to explore the implications of becoming a minister of the Word and Sacrament. I have applied to Union-PSCE Theological Seminary in Richmond to begin study in 2006. I will continue to work at Hickory Neck and go to school. With the prayers and support of both of my churches as I travel this journey, may God's will be done.

Nugget Notes

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our new chapel. The class is open to anyone interested in learning more about the Christian faith and the Episcopal Church, but is required for anyone interested in becoming a candidate for Confirmation. For questions and for more information, please see **Pastor Ann**.

In January and February, join **Father Michael** on Thursday mornings, from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., in the Parish House, for a book study on Rabbi Harold Kushner's, "Living a Life That Matters." Study begins January 5.

Karen Dutro sends a note that the Youth Group (YAC) will meet Sunday January 8th at 7:00 p.m. They will also be involved in a Reach Out Day on Saturday January 21st at St. Paul's in Newport News, Virginia.

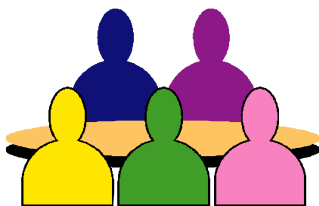
Sign-up sheets for the Leadership Institute, which will start on January 9th, are posted in the Parish House.



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



Vestry Highlights

Phyllis Faas, Recorder

On Tuesday, December 13, 2005, the Hickory Neck Vestry met. Steve Snyder (Senior Warden), Gay Forloine (Newcomers) and Nancy Ascherio (Music) stepped down and four new members were welcomed. Father Michael nominated Randy Tanner to be our new Senior Warden and the Vestry unanimously agreed to this change. Fred Boelt will serve as Junior Warden in Randy's place and additionally continue to serve as our Treasurer. Stepping in for Randy are Bill Teale and Chuck Jundt who will co-liaison our Outreach Ministry. Lynn Geddy will be working with Donna Casanave (Parish Life) and Katrina Luksovsky will be liaison for Newcomers. Sue Dugan agreed to continue with her ministry in Pastoral Care; De Fehrenbach will continue her ministry

(Formation) and Connie Kendrick will continue her ministry (Worship). Nancy Geddes will continue her ministry working with our youth and Brian Manning in buildings and grounds. Ed Godshall will take over music from Nancy Ascherio.

Father Michael expressed his appreciation to Steve, Gay and Nancy for their exemplary performance while serving their terms on Vestry. While they each will be missed greatly, we're blessed to have our four talented new members. It promises to be a great year in the life of Hickory Neck Church.

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



New Members

Gary & Sandy Harvey
 Ed Joyner
 Hoover & Betty Lide
 Dick & Dinky Newman
 Bill and Ann Burnett

Transfers Out of the Parish

Melissa & Max Bird

Deaths

Eva Tull

NUGGETS STAFF

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