



# Hickory Neck Nuggets

Hickory Neck Parish Episcopal Church

July 2007

Inside this Issue

Nugget Notes 2

In the Spotlight 3

July Celebrations 4

Vestry Highlights 4

Our Church Family 4

Hickory Neck's Historic Cemetery 5

Relay for Life Update 5

Tips From the Tellers 6

## Running the Race and Going the Distance

The Reverend Ann Dieterle

Many of you know that I have taken up running as both a hobby and a way to stay fit. Some of you have heard a lot more about it than you ever wished to, but if you fit that description, I hope that you will suffer me just one more story.

In addition to simply logging miles, I've taken up races as part of my training regimen. Partly I just wanted the extra motivation to keep running, but I'll be honest, I'm competitive and I enjoy trying to better my times and the adrenaline rush of crossing that finish line - hopefully beating out my closest competitor. At my last race I had the rush of beating my previous time, but the humbling experience of watching a 13-year old streak past me at the last 100 yards of a 5K. It was a bittersweet moment (just for the record, she had a lot less body mass to move).

St. Paul compared Christian discipleship to athletic performance in general and running in particular. This was a clever tactic since athleticism

was highly regarded by the Greeks, the gentiles to whom the apostle was called to preach. This was an analogy that they understood well - it was a part of their everyday life. In his first letter to the Corinthians (9:24) Paul reminds his listeners that in a race all runners compete but only one can receive the



prize. "Run in such a way that you may win it." No, Paul is not channeling Vince Lombardi here (winning is the only thing?!). What Paul is saying is that Christian discipleship, like running, requires discipline and commitment.

For example, you wouldn't

register for a marathon and then expect to run and finish it without months and months of hard work prior to the event. You have to choose a realistic training plan and then follow it through to what feels like a bitter end some days. While discipleship isn't something that you ever really 'finish' in this lifetime - the lesson still applies. You will not wake up tomorrow and be Mother Theresa. We have to start with a realistic prayer routine, and a Bible Study that works with our schedule instead of competing against it - and allow it to become a habit (if you are consistent for three weeks with something you are likely to keep up with it for the long term). That may sound cold and rigid, but discipline does not mean an absence of warmth and emotion and the other perceived alternative, spontaneity, does not often yield any outcome at all. When we do not have a discipline of prayer and study, it is unlikely we'll develop one through spontaneous desire. It's the old law of inertia working against us - a body

at rest tends to stay at rest.

Another truth that we can compare with running is that discipleship is a choice. Some days I love that morning run, and I go to bed at night looking forward to getting up, strapping on my iPod and hitting the road. But there are just as many days when hitting the snooze button is the more attractive alternative. Many or most of us expect to feel good every day about prayer and Bible study and even worship. We expect to look forward to it as something we 'get' to do - but some days it's more of a choice than an ardent desire. And that's okay. C.S. Lewis once said that God always takes our efforts to mean much more than we ever intended, which is to say, God honors our choice to show up - even when we'd rather be somewhere else. And if we make the effort, it becomes easier the next time. Every step that we take, helps us to take the next step and ultimately to go the distance; but if we skip the training, we miss the incomparable joy that God has to offer us. Not because we're being punished, but simply because we won't know it when we see it; because for better or worse, the strain, the effort, the suffering that goes into our life and into our choices and into our prayers, is PART of that joy of knowing God, and being known by God.

So let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the

cross. (Hebrews 12:1-2).



## 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.

Once again this summer we are taking requests for favorite hymns you may not have sung for a while. We will be scheduling these during July and August. A sign up sheet will be available in the church narthex. In view of the response last year, a few "rules" are in order. Please list no more than three; there are many people who have requests and we'd like to fill as many requests as possible. Choose the hymns from either the Episcopal Hymnal 1982 or the Hickory Neck Hymnal and include the number of the song. List the

time of the service which you usually attend and we will use the selected hymn at that service. Please list your name in case we have any questions.

Have you stopped to enjoy the coffee hour between the 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services? Most of you have, of course. The volunteers who prepare this for you know that there's as much fellowship in the preparation as in the partaking. **Lynn Geddy** oversees this ministry and would love to have you join the preparation team. Join her July 22<sup>nd</sup>, August 19<sup>th</sup> or September 30<sup>th</sup> when she's on duty and she'll show you the very easy ropes, or give her a call at 566-0234.

The new black and white Hickory Neck Photo Directory needs you! We have over 70 of the 240 "families" we hope to include, so we're off to a great start. Regular visitors are part of our family too. We are not able to use the photos from the Olin Mills Directory, so please smile for willing photographers at the Sunday services. If you prefer to use a digital photo of your own, please email it to [hbrans@hickoryneck.org](mailto:hbrans@hickoryneck.org).

We have a revised "Time and Talent" sheet to make better use of your talents and generous gifts of time. There was a copy in your June Nuggets or you may pick one up in the Narthex. Please place your completed sheet in the box provided in the Narthex or mail it to the church office. Many thanks from all the team leaders for your help in this.

Summer solstice is here and the heat is on! Not only is the mercury rising outside, but it is also rising in the narthex of the new chapel.

(continued on page 6)



## Eve and Tom Gee In the Spotlight

Doug Smith



Eve and Tom Gee met one another at a “Seasoned Seniors” group at Holy Comforter Episcopal Church in Vienna, Virginia, started dating and eventually married. Now retired, the couple have been very active members at Hickory Neck for the last year. Already at Hickory Neck, Eve is register of the Vestry, a lay reader and a chalice. Tom is coordinator of the lay readers and the LEM program.

Eve, born in Argentina and reared in Brazil, attended a British Anglican School in Brazil and St. Catherine’s in Richmond, Virginia. She has lived all over the world, including South Africa, London, Sao Paulo, and Washington, D.C. She attended Martha Webster College (now defunct) in Washington, D.C. After her first marriage, she was a single parent for 18 years. She has spent much of her working life associated with the House of Representatives where she was the first woman to be Chief Journal Clerk of

the House of Representatives, keeping official records for the parliamentary actions of the House. She was also an executive with the Airlie Foundation, Warrenton, Virginia.

Tom is a native of Iowa and a graduate of the University of Kansas where he was active in dramatic productions and campus politics. He majored in history, political science and English. After college, he spent 28 years in the United States Army, during the period of the Berlin Wall and Cuban missile crises. After retiring and before moving here, he worked in real estate. While in the Army, Tom served in Thailand, Okinawa, Viet Nam, Germany, England and Washington, D.C.

The couple has two children, each by their first marriages. Eve’s daughter, Lora, lives in Midlothian and has two children and Tom’s son, Sean, lives in Washington, D.C. Tom is a district volunteer alumnus for Kappa Sigma fraternity for six colleges in Virginia – The College of William and Mary, University of Virginia, Hampden-Sydney College, Virginia Commonwealth University, Randolph Macon College and the University of Richmond. Eve, who is a voracious reader, wants to return to college in the fall to earn her bachelor’s and master’s degrees. She

plans to attend a cycle course at Vermont College.

Both Eve and Tom have attended Cursillo. Some of the things Eve likes about Hickory Neck are the ambiance and persons who are interested in you - including you in their conversations. In many groups, she says, there is a period of “hazing” for newcomers but this did not happen at Hickory Neck. Eve has a “love of the liturgy and serving at the altar, hoping my readings will get people to take a different look at the church and its beliefs.” Tom likes the “great speed” with which the couple was accepted into the church community and the fact that they were immediately given things to do in the church. Both have a passion for pastoral care and that is shown by their numerous activities in other Episcopal congregations as well as at Hickory Neck. It’s grand to have you in our congregation, Tom and Eve, and we know we will enjoy your many insights into our religious life.



Visit Hickory Neck on the web at [www.hickoryneck.org](http://www.hickoryneck.org)

## July Celebrations



### Birthdays

- 3 - Robert Fedorisko
- 4 - Ken Carr
- 4 - Hoover Lide
- 4 - Karen Buckley
- 5 - Donna Casanave
- 5 - Marshall Blanchard
- 6 - Bryan Husted
- 6 - Connie Kendrick
- 9 - Ralph Stone
- 11 - Allison Tanner
- 11 - Amy Miller
- 14 - Don Bartholomy
- 16 - Preston Claytor
- 18 - Piper Baum
- 20 - Carl Aschman
- 21 - Harry Turton
- 22 - David Henderson
- 22 - Chris Miller
- 25 - Charlotte Elmers
- 26 - Chuck White
- 29 - Ann Ragsdale
- 29 - Lyndsey Houser

### Anniversaries

- 10 - Debby & Cleve Corlett
- 10 - Leslie & Greg Henderson
- 11 - Connie & Ollie Kendrick

- 15 - Lynn & Larry Kelley
- 16 - Linda & Buddy Matthews
- 17 - Robin & Don Seeterlin
- 19 - Jean & Chuck Jundt
- 20 - Martha McCartney & Carl Aschman
- 24 - Shelly & Richard Smith
- 25 - Betty & Frank Somloi
- 27 - Laurie & Jeff Brown
- 29 - Linda Becker & Peter Haines

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.



## Vestry Highlights

### Eve Butler-Gee Register

The Vestry of Hickory Neck Church was assembled in regular session on Tuesday, June 12, 2007, in the Parish House. The minutes of the May, 2007 Vestry meeting and the Treasurer's report were both approved. The Junior Warden reported that new Time and Talent forms had been sent out and were coming in to the office; photographs for the new expandable Hickory Neck Directory are being taken every Sunday this month in the Narthex; and there is a new basket in the Narthex for donations to the FISH ministry. The Senior Warden reported that Melissa Casheros has agreed to serve as Chairman of the Stewardship Committee; and that the Bishop's Visitation is scheduled for Sunday, November 4,

with confirmation classes being held prior to that date. The Associate Rector reported that Hickory Neck Youth and Adult volunteers at Relay for Life raised a total of \$5,100 for the American Cancer Society; that Marta Zoellner was awarded the Leroy Watson Memorial Scholarship from St. George's Episcopal Church, Newport News; that Hickory Neck has three graduating seniors this year, Marta Zoellner, Ryan Leggett and Joseph Banks, all of whom will be recognized at the services they attend; and that Julia Messer has been accepted as a postulant and will attend Virginia Theological Seminary in the Fall. The Vestry received a progress report from Lauris Zeni, Chair of the Fall Festival, and informal reports from various other ministries, including the Cookbook Committee, Outreach Council and Christian Formation. The Vestry also received a report from Don Seeterlin, Buildings and Grounds, regarding a humidifier for the New Chapel and voted on a new pest control contract to cover all three buildings. The next regular meeting of the Vestry meeting will be on Tuesday, July 10, 2007.

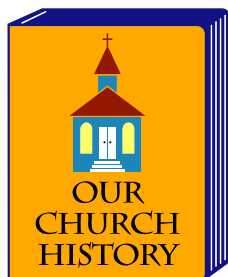


### Weddings

Michele Jones & Gavin Landry  
Nina Starkova & Jeffrey Olsen

# Hickory Neck's Historic Cemetery

Martha W. McCartney



In 1624 Virginia's legislature passed an act, requiring each plantation or settlement to have a house of worship and a fence enclosed burial ground. By the 1630s, the colony had been subdivided into parishes, each of which was to have a church and cemetery. Hickory Neck's forerunner, the first "lower" (or easternmost) church of Blisland Parish, established by 1653, would have had a burial ground whose maintenance was the vestry's responsibility.

In 1734 Blisland Parish's vestry decided to erect a new lower church: what became known as Hickory Neck. It was oriented on an east-west axis, in accord with Anglican tradition, and was a large, rectangular building. Five years after construction was complete, the vestry ordered four men to lay off a yard around the new church, acreage that was to be walled-in for use as a cemetery. In 1743, Major Edwin Daingerfield was reimbursed for having bricks made and hiring men to build the wall. Archaeological excavations conducted at Hickory Neck in 1934 revealed that the churchyard wall was 100 feet square and that the church built in 1734 was located close to the northernmost side of the wall. It also was discovered that in 1774, when Hickory Neck was enlarged through the addition of a north transept, a

portion of the churchyard wall was dismantled so that the newly built extension could protrude through. This would have caused a minimal amount of disturbance to the existing graveyard.

After the disestablishment of Virginia's state church, Hickory Neck fell into disrepair and its cemetery ceased being maintained. In 1824, when Daniel Walker Lord of Connecticut strolled by Hickory Neck, which was ruinous, he commented upon seeing remnants of the church's walled yard and a few tombstones, one of which dated to the 1740s. A painting of Hickory Neck, made by Robert Knox Sneden, a young Union Army private, reveals that in 1862 only the southernmost portion of the brick wall around the churchyard remained. During the 1930s a local man recalled that during his youth, he'd seen a few old, broken tombstones in the churchyard. Today, a fragment of one of those grave markers is embedded in Hickory Neck's entrance porch.

"microburst" of wind that flattened our site in less than five minutes and had some of our youngest members being blown away in their tent! God was clearly with us as no one was hurt in the midst of flying canopies and tents. So far we have raised \$5,100 with more coming in! Previous years have raised around \$3,000 so this is a record year. In the last 5 years, we have raised close to \$17,000.

We couldn't have done it without the amazing support of our Hickory Neck family. We had 24 "official" Relay members, approximately 25 others who helped in so many ways - car wash, spaghetti dinners, set up and break down at Relay, food and drinks for Relay, and still many others who donated money. We also had 20 people who signed up as "Prayer Partners" and prayed for more than 80 people whose names were collected from luminarias, the prayer warrior list, and parishioners. We are so grateful to everyone, and thrilled at the extent of a parish-wide event that it was this year.

## Relay for Life Update

Karen Dutro

Thanks to everyone who supported this year's Relay for Life and the Hickory Neck Heavenly Hikers. It was a huge success, despite the



(as of 5/31/2007)

YTD Budget Income	\$142,190.40
YTD Actual Income	\$141,564.46
YTD Budget Expenses	\$142,190.40
YTD Actual Expenses	\$147,309.23
Loan Balances	\$615,379.00
(as of 6-1-07)	



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

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

## Tips From The Tellers

### Gay Forloine

Every Monday you will find several faithful tellers working diligently to record and deposit the contributions from the Sunday offering. Hickory Neck Church has two separate accounts at the bank. One account is our Capital Campaign/Building Fund Account and the other is our General Account. Your contributions to the Capital Campaign/Building Fund are deposited into that account and *everything else* is deposited into the General Account.

When you wake up on Sunday morning, surely the first thing on your mind is the thought: "What can I do today to make the tellers smile tomorrow?" "I know, I'll write a separate check for my contribution to the Capital Campaign/Building Fund!" Then when making a contribution for *everything else*, like for flowers, the organ repair fund, your stewardship pledge, Relay for Life, etc., you can include them all in another check - just remember to note in the memo line how you want the money disbursed.

Of course you can make the Treasurer smile every time you write a check to Hickory Neck Church and

by keeping up your pledges over the summer vacation months.



## The Seventh Annual Hickory Neck Fall Festival Is Only Three Months Away!

**Reserve the date -  
September 29, 2007**



### Nugget Notes

(continued from page 2)

Not to panic; the air conditioning is working fine. It is the mercury on the Capital Campaign thermometer that is rising in the narthex. As you know, we are winding down on the third year of the campaign that began in November 2004 to raise funds to build the new chapel. We are close to

reaching the total amount pledged: \$1,241,246.00. Please help the mercury to rise steadily over the next few months and help us to exceed our goal!

The Bishop is coming! Interim Bishop John Buchanan is scheduled to visit Hickory Neck on Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. One of the things that Bishops can do that Priests cannot is confirm persons. Anyone who is considering confirmation should contact **Pastor Ann** at the church office to discuss the meaning of confirmation, and the upcoming confirmation preparation classes - to start in early September and run through October.

**Ann Sloan** asks that all prayer requests during the period June 29<sup>th</sup> to July 16<sup>th</sup> be sent to **Hope Brans** at [hbrans@hickoryneck.org](mailto:hbrans@hickoryneck.org) or call her at 566-0276.

## NUGGETS STAFF

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**Production: Steve Snyder**

**August Deadline - July 15th**