



Hickory Neck Nuggets

Hickory Neck Parish Episcopal Church

June 2008

Inside this Issue	
Our Church Family	3
Senior Warden's Corner	3
Vestry Highlights	4
Nugget Notes	4
A Thank You Note from The Reverend Ann Dieterle	5
June Celebrations	5
Blisland Parish: Genesis During Storm and Stress	7
Treasurer's Report	7
Spring Clean Up	8
Steward Conference Provokes, Informs, Encourages	9
A Message From the Treasurer	9
Summer Reading Suggestions	10

Building a City on a Hill

The Very Reverend Michael L. Delk

Earlier this year, a team of trusted parishioners began looking into the feasibility of Hickory Neck having a day care or a pre-school, preferably one that would operate on a sliding fee scale, in order to provide quality childcare at an affordable price for people of lesser means. This work was authorized by the Vestry, who were responding to the vision discerned by the parish last year.

The first step in determining feasibility is gauging the need in the community. If there is no need, then there is no reason to proceed. Last Tuesday, the Vestry received a preliminary report from Paula Simmons, De Fehrenbach, Jean Hancock, Stephanie Delk, and Joy Tanner. Their research so far has demonstrated a major need for childcare, especially for those least able to pay. Allow me to share with you some of their findings.

In 2007, 147 pre-school children were admitted to Head Start in James City County. In order to be eligible for this program, a family's income must be under the federally mandated poverty line, which for a family of four is set at \$21,200 per year. However, insufficient funds were available for all eligible applicants to be admitted. Last year, 25 children were placed on a waiting list for Head Start.

No funding increases adequate to expand the program are expected for the upcoming school year. So that waiting list will almost certainly grow longer.

These 25 children are the tip of the iceberg. In James City County, 64% of children under the age of six have working parents. Many of these families prosper and can afford to send their children to one of the many quality care providers in our community. However, even for families of sufficient means, childcare can

be difficult to obtain, because there is a serious shortage of available capacity.

For families of lesser means, the cost of available services puts a terrible strain on their household budget. For instance,

two parents, each working 40-hour weeks at \$12 per hour, will earn a pre-tax income of \$48,000. The cost of daycare in James City County ranges from \$6,240 to \$7,680 annually per child, which represents 13% to 19% of their pre-tax income. If that working family has two pre-school children, they would spend somewhere between 26% and 38% of their income on childcare. We do not know precisely how many families earn an income that is above the poverty level yet below a level that makes childcare affordable. However, the data we have gathered indicates that



sufficient need exists to warrant further study.

The Vestry has asked our team to take the next step and explore the financial side of feasibility. We hope to know by the end of the summer whether or not we can offer high quality care at a reduced rate for families of lesser means. We intend any facility we open to be self-sustaining, and to that end, we will be exploring grant opportunities for operating capital to get us started. The Feasibility Team currently advocates a hybrid model that would include a pre-school component, along with daycare opportunities that would extend services into the early morning and late afternoon hours. This will allow greater flexibility for wage workers who have less flexibility with their schedules. It would also enable us to serve people who live farther away from Hickory Neck. This is an ambitious plan, and there are many unanswered questions, but I believe we are on the right track.

Of course, our current facilities are proving increasingly inadequate for our own growing needs, much less those of others. Our Sunday School classrooms are operating at or near capacity. It is not uncommon for multiple meetings and classes to occur simultaneously, and large-scale fellowship events, even with our multi-use chapel, are a great challenge to pull off, especially without the benefit of a commercial-grade kitchen. So another team, at the request of the Vestry, has been exploring the construction of another building to help better accommodate these needs.

Under the leadership of Aaron Small, this team of Kristin Baum, Donna Casanave, Melissa Casheros, Don Seeterlin, and Rebecca Zoellner, has analyzed local growth projections to gain some sense of what our future needs as a parish might be, and what type of building would best meet those needs at the lowest possible cost. We are still in the conceptual phase of planning. Nothing has been drawn on paper, much less inscribed in stone, but here is what seems both possible and necessary:

A single-story structure with a footprint of 7,000 sq. ft., which for purposes of comparison is approximately 30% larger than the New Chapel. This structure would be expandable, in case more space was needed later on.

This 7,000 sq. ft. building would be divided into several parts, including:

A commercial-grade kitchen of approximately 800 square feet, which is about the floor space of the Historic Chapel

A 4,000 sq. ft. Parish Hall, which could dine 200 people. The combined area of the Nave and Narthex is less than 4,000 sq. ft.

Six or seven dual-use classrooms, each approximately 300 sq. ft, capable of accommodating both Sunday School and daycare/pre-school classes of about ten students each

66 additional parking spaces

Restrooms and ample storage space for chairs, tables, etc.

This structure could be attached to the New Chapel on the southeast corner in such a way as to allow natural light easy access to our worship space. The estimated cost of the building is \$1.4 million. The total cost of the project, including site work and furnishings, would be approximately \$2 million.

I suspect some of you may be quietly questioning my sanity. \$2 million is a lot of money, especially when we are already carrying about a half-million dollars of debt. Allow me to remind you, though, of where we were five years ago, when we started talking seriously about a New Chapel.

Our annual pledge and plate income was \$187,812. Today, that figure has risen to \$372,081, an increase of 98%. Our average Sunday attendance in 2003 was 118. Last year, it was 212, an increase of 80%. In 2004, when we held a capital campaign to raise funds for a new chapel, the initial phase of the campaign yielded \$823,000, which later grew over the course of three years to more than \$1.25 million. When we launched our capital campaign in 2004, we were already holding a quarter-million dollars in debt, from the 1998 Parish House expansion and renovation, and the acquisition of land we needed to build new facilities.

Everything has doubled – our operating income, our attendance, our debt load, our square footage under roof. Everything has doubled, except for the size of the project we're contemplating, which is only 25% larger

than what we just accomplished.

There is, at present, no firm timetable for the construction of this proposed new building. There are simply too many unanswered questions. There are variables beyond our control or prediction, such as the health of the economy, which in turn will impact the pace of occupancy in the neighborhoods adjacent to our campus. The conversation has just begun, and will continue, but I want to bring you in on the ground floor of this new adventure, and I promise to keep you posted as we sharpen our plans.

I know the apprehension some here may feel. I feel it myself. These are major undertakings. But we are Christians. We are a people of faith. This is what we do. We look at the needs and discern their importance and urgency. We wisely weigh the options of how those needs might be met. We share information. We listen. We trust each other, and sometimes, we have to wait.

God believes in us, and so do I. I hope you believe in us, too. Be patient. Be at peace. We have received a vision to be a city on a hill, shining forth the light of Christ. What I've shared with you today is the latest thinking on how we can fulfill that vision, at least in part. Or more accurately, I've told you what tools we need to facilitate our ministry moving forward. Because a vision isn't about institutions or buildings; a vision is about ministry, about helping people who need it. And a daycare/pre-school will help people who need it, and a new building will make that ministry, and all of our other ministries, work better to the glory of God.



New Members by Letter of Transfer

Angie Ross

Marriages

Tracy Lynn Franklin and
Ralph Benjamin Dozier



The Senior Warden's Corner

Bill Teale

First, I want to thank the 2008 Vestry for all its hard work and accomplishments so far this year. Each ministry, building on what was started in past years, has worked to improve or implement new initiatives for the betterment of Hickory Neck Church.

Also I want to thank the chairman and members of the Funding Future Ministries committee for its work. The chair was Bill Forloine and his team consisted of Linda Weaver, Nancy Snyder, Tom Gee, Mayes Mathews and Bob Williams. What this committee presented and the Vestry approved in our April meeting will have a positive impact on Hickory Neck Church in the years to come and will complement the other existing forms of giving. The Resolution the Vestry approved does the following:

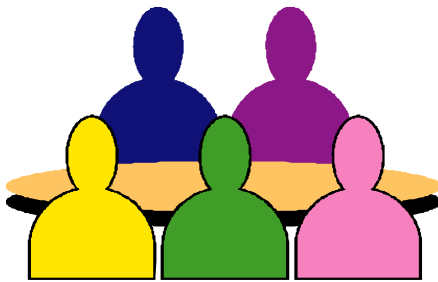
1. Creates a true endowment fund (to be called the COVENANT FUND) in which the principal shall not be used.
2. Once the fund starts to accumulate principal, the proceeds of the fund may be used for:
 - Capital needs of Hickory Neck Church;
 - Outreach ministries and grants;
 - Seed money for new ministries;
 - Special one-time projects; and
 - Specific purposes that are designated by the donor to the fund.
3. The fund will be managed by a five person Endowment Board to be appointed by the Vestry.

Visit Hickory Neck on the web at www.hickoryneck.org

This endowment fund is in addition to several other ways that people may contribute to Hickory Neck Church.

- We have our General Fund that we pledge to each year which is used to pay annual operating expenses, salaries, and, hopefully in the future, the mortgage.
- This year we have continued our Building Fund to cover the mortgage and pay down some principal. Many have made one-time gifts to this Fund; others have continued with a "Fourth Year" contribution at all or part of their original Capital Campaign pledge level. I hope that with our growth in 2008, this fund will not be needed in the future.
- We also have the Historic Chapel Preservation Fund. I have been told that several people have contributed to this Fund and that some of the gifts have been substantial. We could not have done the renovations to the Historic Chapel without these gifts. Gifts/bequests to this special fund are only used for the Historic Chapel.

More information about the many ways to support Hickory Neck Church and its mission will be distributed in special mailings, presented in articles in the *Nuggets* and added to our web-site.



Vestry Highlights

Eve Butler-Gee, Register

The Vestry of Hickory Neck Church was assembled in regular session on Tuesday, May 13, 2008, in the Wilkinson Center. The minutes of the April 1st Vestry meeting and the Treasurer's report were

both approved. In addition, the Vestry unanimously approved the revised Detailed Operating Budget for 2008. The Senior Warden reported that the revision of the Hickory Neck Hymnal is ongoing and briefly reviewed with the Vestry the By-Law changes to be ratified at the special Parish meeting on Sunday, May 18th. The Rector reported that the Fall Parish Retreat has been scheduled for October 24th and 25th at Chanco, with 32 slots available for Friday overnight stay and no limit on attendance Saturday morning through early afternoon for those who do not come the night before; that there would be a Newcomers' Reception Friday night, May 16th; that there has been a good sign-up response to various "Meet n' Greet" gatherings in early July to welcome the Reverend Lauren McDonald; and read a letter to the Vestry from the Reverend Ann Dieterle now in her third Sunday at the Church of the Holy Comforter Church in suburban Chicago. The Vestry welcomed members of the Day Care/Pre-School Feasibility Study team who, along with Vestry liaison team member, Paula Simmons, made a progress report to the Vestry on their findings to date; and the Vestry received ministry reports from the Children's and Youth Ministries and Communications committees. The next Vestry meeting will be on Tuesday, June 3, 2008.

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



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. 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
(continued on page 6)

A Thank You Note from The Reverend Ann Dieterle

June Celebrations



My Dear Friends at Hickory Neck,

As I write this, I have just finished my third Sunday at the Church of the Holy Comforter here on the north shore of Chicago. It was the last Sunday for the seminarian who has been doing field education here for the past year, and as he said his goodbyes and expressed his gratitude, I found myself reliving my last Sunday with you, and all of the joy and sadness that went with it.

I couldn't possibly express the depth of my gratitude to you - but I hope that this attempt will be enough. I am so thankful for the time that I spent with you. There's a line in my favorite song in my new favorite musical *Wicked* that says: "Because I knew you, I have been changed for good" (Lauris saw it as well - maybe she will sing it for you ;-)) and I think of you whenever I listen to it, which is often! I won't list all of the ways that I grew with you - it would take too long - but there is no doubt that my tenure at Hickory Neck was good for me as a Priest, and as a person.

The beautiful framed picture of the historic chapel is now hanging in my office, and many people have stopped to admire it. They are relieved to see that it does in fact snow in Virginia - although I doubt that it was adequate preparation for winters on the lake! The very generous monetary gift that you gave me made my transition time much less anxious. And I will remember the wonderful reception for a long time - Hickory Neck, as always, knows how to celebrate!

I pray for you daily and hope that you will pray for me, too. May God continue to bless you as you shine your light to Toano and beyond.

Yours in Christ,

Ann +

Birthdays

3 - Sandy Harvey	14 - Ginny Daughtry
3 - Melissa Casheros	15 - Alyssa Deal
4 - Joe Orth	15 - Eve Butler-Gee
6 - Georgia	18 - Shirley Forde
Irby-Massie	22 - Michael Delk
7 - Elizabeth Baum	24 - Paula Simmons
7 - David Baum	25 - Stuart Hughes
10 - Linda Matthews	26 - Kelli Dugan
10 - Bob Williams	26 - Chris Elmers
12 - Janet Blair	26 - Bill Forloine
13 - Jesse Hodges	30 - Daniel Wyatt

Anniversaries

5 - Lauris & Tom Zeni
6 - Stephanie & Michael Delk
9 - Sandy & Gary Harvey
12 - Georgie Irby-Massie & Keith Massie
13 - Nancy & Steve Snyder
16 - Rebecca & Alan Zoellner
17 - MariBeth & Alan Brittle
17 - Betty & Bill Harrison
18 - Jennie & Jeffrey Seiler
24 - Donna & Paul Casanave
26 - Louanne & Tom Martin
27 - Bunky & Rick Garfield
27 - Erica & Prince Butler
29 - Linda & Jim McGee

If your birthday or anniversary is this month and you are not listed above, please send the appropriate information to nan-steve13@cox.net or call us at (804) 557-3175.

Nugget Notes

(Continued from page 4)

good way to affirm your commitment to the mission of Jesus Christ in this place.

Thanks to the many men who got up early on Sunday morning, May 11th, to make our Pentecost/Mother's Day Brunch a delicious success. The made-from-scratch quiche was marvelous, and the mimosas were a nice touch, too. It takes a lot of preparation and effort to feed 150 people immediately after worship, and everything was handled gracefully. What a wonderful way to honor the mothers of our parish, and to celebrate the birth of the Church.

Support the children and youth of our parish with your presence! Show up on Sunday, June 1st at 10:15 a.m., to celebrate the end of another great year of learning about and growing closer to our God. We will be recognizing the students and teachers of our Sunday School and Youth programs. Awards will be presented to each student, and our dedicated teachers, youth mentors, and Sunday School administrators will be honored as well.

On Sunday, June 15th at 10:15 a.m., in the New Chapel, we hope you can join us for an old-fashioned hymn sing. Anything from the Hymnal 1982 or the Hickory Neck Hymnal is fair game. Here's a chance to gather around the piano and just belt out our favorites. There will also be a sign-up sheet present, for you to suggest hymns to be sung during the summer Sunday services, just like last year. Come in good voice and make a joyful noise to the Lord!

According to the church Treasurer, **Fred Boelt**, the month of April came in slightly in the red (\$1,551.72). However, after a strong first quarter, we continue to be in the BLACK for the first four months of 2008. Please continue to keep your pledges current for that is how we are able to maintain salaries, programs and property upkeep in a responsible manner. Thank you for your generous support of God's work at Hickory Neck.

Please sign up in the Narthex for small group opportunities to meet with Reverend Lauren McDonald when she arrives the beginning of July. We will meet in homes or at the church.

The Episcopal Church in Southern Virginia has set up a fund for immediate relief for victims of the tornado in the Suffolk area. An initial emergency relief fund of \$10,000 from the diocese is being administered through St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 213 North Main Street, Suffolk, VA 23434. The Rector of St. Paul's, the Reverend Dr. Keith Emerson, is serving as relief coordinator for the Diocese of Southern Virginia. Relief contributions may be made payable to: St. Paul's Episcopal Church and marked "Emergency Relief Fund". All contributions will go directly to aid victims of the tornado disaster. For further information please call St. Paul's Episcopal Church at 757-539-2478 or email office@saintpauls-suffolk.org.

Summer Camp at Chanco will soon be here! Registration is coming to a close, but spaces are still open for every session; fun and faith in God's great out-of-doors is our mission! Don't delay, contact Chanco today (www.campchanco.org) or 1-888-7CHANCO. Register to be a camper or apply to be a counselor and decide that "no child will be left inside".

Vibrant Life Ministries for the homeless has established a new business to raise funds and provide employment. Their new venture is called Shiloh Lawn & Landscape Maintenance. They are trained, uniformed and already at work. If you need home lawn or landscaping done, or would like to contribute to equipment needs, please contact **Gary Harvey** at 258-4660 or glharvey@widomaker.com.

If you are heading off to college or seminary this fall, you might want to apply for a scholarship provided through the Diocese of Southern Virginia. The Elise Holladay Scholarship provides assistance to men and women for continued education beyond high school in undergraduate study only. The Tucker Memorial Scholarship provides assistance to men and women in church-related training in an accredited Episcopal Church training school. Deadline to apply for either is July 1, 2008. Contact Hope in the Parish Office for an application form or get in touch with the ECW Student Work Chair at the Diocese office: 757-423-8287 or 600@diosova.org.

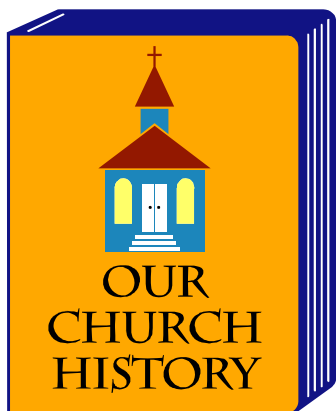
Volunteers are needed on a rotating schedule to help in the nursery on Sunday mornings during the 9:00 a.m. service and Sunday school. Please contact **Linda Becker** at 566-4402 or **Paula Simmons** at 564-7998 if you are willing to help with this special ministry.

Several training sessions of *Creating Safe Churches* will be offered this spring. If you have not done so previously, anyone who works with children/youth at Hickory Neck Church needs to complete the "child" session. Anyone who works with adults should complete the "adult" session.

See your favorite recipes in print in the Hickory Neck Church Cookbook. Request a recipe form and submit recipes via email at cookbook@hickoryneck.org. Submission forms are also available in the New Chapel narthex and may be deposited in the collection box in the narthex or mailed to the church.

Blisland Parish: Genesis During Storm and Stress

Martha W. McCartney



As most of us know, the 1640s were a tumultuous period in English history and involved a bloody civil war. The struggle between king and parliament culminated in the downfall of the monarchy and with it, the Church of England. In January 1645 Parliament prohibited use of the *Book of Common Prayer*. Virginia's bur-

gesses responded by enacting legislation that required all parish clergy to use the Prayer Book every Sabbath or face loss of their compensation. The executions of King Charles I and the Archbishop of Canterbury in January 1649 evoked an angry reaction to Oliver Cromwell and the Commonwealth regime, prompting

Virginia authorities to proclaim Charles II the rightful ruler. Many of the monarchy's supporters, including Anglican clergy, fled to Virginia, which quickly became known as a royalist stronghold. It was not an easy situation, for most Virginians were devoutly loyal to the Church of England, but some (particularly those living on the lower side of the James River) adhered to the Puritan faith.

The Commonwealth government sent a fleet to Virginia, hoping to bring the colony under control. But when the delegation arrived at Jamestown in March 1652, prepared to demand the colony's surrender, it was confronted by armed militiamen, summoned by Governor William Berkeley, a titled nobleman. The articles of surrender that Virginia's governing officials signed were relatively generous and allayed many of the colonists' concerns. One article specified that the *Book of Common Prayer* could be used for a year, with parishioners' consent, provided that all references to the monarchy were omitted. Interestingly, there is no evidence that the Prayer Book ceased being used after a year's time.

Several new parishes came into existence while Virginia was under the sway of the Commonwealth government. One was Blisland Parish, in which colonial Hickory Neck Church was located. It was established some time prior to October 13, 1653, in what was then western York County and a year later, New Kent. Changing from royal to parliamentary rule seemingly did not lead to conflict between Anglican and Puritan Virginians, for most of the men who had held office under the king continued to do so under Cromwell. The colony's assembly gained – and retained – new authority, but few mourned the collapse of the Puritan experiment when it came to an end in 1660 and King Charles II took the throne.



(as of 4/30/2008)

YTD Budget Income	\$ 93,020.25
YTD Actual Income	\$ 105,090.50
YTD Budget Expenses	\$ 93,020.25
YTD Actual Expenses	\$ 98,000.17
Loan Balances	\$ 572,513.00
(as of 5-1-08)	

Spring Clean Up

Don Seeterlin

Once again our beloved Parish grounds have benefited from the love and hard work of the Buildings and Grounds team of volunteers. Beginning with careful and thoughtful planning by our new Grounds chairman, George Margroum, all the way through the feeding of the “hungry hordes” by Lynn Geddy and her stalwart Parish Life crew, the most recent grounds work day came off almost without a hitch. I say almost without a “hitch” because to tell the truth there was a hitch or two, at least four that come to mind. Buddy Matthews had his lawn tractor on site with a hitch attached to pull his trailer around to aid in the moving of the hardwood mulch. Ben Manning and family brought their truck with hitch and trailer attached, to move mulch to the grove of crape myrtles. Burt Geddy had his new toy on site, a four wheel drive John Deere tractor complete with front end loader and a three point hitch which he used for pulling tree stakes (with Steve Snyder riding shotgun), loading mulch, pulling dead and unwanted bushes and trees. Kathryn Seeterlin, with a little help from her nephew Jamie, and Bill Teale shared the use of a small lawn tractor and trailer as they moved dead azaleas, weeds, sticks and other debris away and brought fresh mulch back to replenish and beautify many small garden areas.

Beginning with the flowerbeds in front of the Wilkinson Center, and working around the building, George Margroum and his dedicated weed pulling, plant moving and mulching crew of Judy Kintner, Bill Small and Buddy Matthews among others, worked tirelessly in refreshing these beds. Mary and Bill Teale have adopted these beds, and spend endless hours in the summer weeding, planting, mulching and watering. This work on Saturday will be a boon to their generously donated time and energy. Bill and Mary Teale also worked with tireless devotion to the weed pulling and mulching of the flowerbeds around the historic sign and the beds surrounding the historic chapel and along the gravel walk. These beds serve not only as welcoming emissaries to all who come to visit and worship in our beloved Historic Chapel, they also lend a sense of serenity and calm to any who might stop by and

visit our beautiful memorial garden. The memorial garden is tended faithfully by our own Dave and Carol Goff.

If you haven't already noticed, Shelly Smith and Diane Perry have plied their creative gardening skills to the flowerbed around the large sign at the entrance to our Hickory Neck grounds, and have turned it once again into a truly “welcoming” sign. Complete with flowering annuals and perennials, boasting two topiaries, and a fresh bed of hardwood mulch, this sign serves as a wonderful first impression to many first time visitors and numerous motorists who may one day discover our “little country church home”. Diane and Shelly work valiantly all summer long striving to keep this bed looking fresh and inviting. If someone has some time during the week to help with the watering, it would be much appreciated, as well as fulfilling.

The flower beds surrounding the new chapel area have become a “weed free zone” thanks in no small part to the concerted efforts of Esther Gay and Pam Stromberg, and the mulch spreading skills of Buddy Matthews and Steve Snyder, aided in the end by Kathryn Seeterlin.

Amidst all of this weeding and mulching, George Margroum worked tirelessly as a virtual pruning machine, along with being the “go to” man for a myriad of questions and concerns.

You've heard of the Phantom, the person who glides around quietly and unnoticed, performing some task? We at Hickory Neck are honored to have our own resident “round-up” phantom, in the person of Bill Forloine. Bill comes in during the day when most people are not around, and quietly wages a war against the invasion to our flower beds by that most dastardly of its enemies, WEEDS. Once again, during the afternoon of the work day, Bill was spotted, trusty spray nozzle in hand, spraying and protecting our flowerbeds and gravel walkways.

And let's not forget all of the hard work and sweat put into the cleaning out of the clutter in the classrooms and nursery by Aaron and Tony Small and family, DJ

and Sara Seeterlin and family, Paula and David Simmons and family, and Stephanie Delk and family. Because of their brave efforts we now have increased our available classroom space and relieved the nursery of some overcrowding.

For all of you rising basketball stars, and those of you who may not be rising quite as high anymore, we now have a great new basketball backboard system. Mark and Judy Kintner quietly assembled our new backboard and net system on Saturday after most of the volunteers had left. I believe I even saw Judy shoot a hoop or two in order to try it out.

So, thanks once again for all of the effort from our outstanding crew of volunteers. We are always excited to have new smiling faces with new stories to tell, so come on out and join us; we'll save some fun for you.

Stewardship Conference Provokes, Informs, Encourages

The Very Reverend Michael L. Delk

On Saturday, May 3rd, nearly 100 people from across the diocese gathered at Hickory Neck, Toano, to share the day with The Reverend Hugh Magers, noted expert on matters of evangelism and stewardship.

Hugh started by providing a conceptual framework based on generational analysis, as a way of explaining the decline in giving in the Episcopal Church. Essentially, research shows that older generations are more likely to attend worship regularly, and that older generations tend to give a higher percentage of their disposable income to churches. Hugh provided insights as to why this is, and how congregations can respond to the challenge of enticing younger people to worship and to a more solid practice of stewardship.

Hugh also provided another analytical tool that can help explain the "pledge and plate problem" This heuristic involves the span of time that people can effectively plan their lives. Sociological research has shown that between 30% and 60% of the American population operate in either a survival or safety mode at any given time. This prevents them from making plans or commitments more than four months in advance. Obviously, this has significant impact on stew-

ardship programs that focus on year-long pledges, not to mention capital campaigns, which require even more extensive commitments.

The second half of the program delved into scripture, and how different generations and people with different "plan-spans" need different approaches. The Law pattern of giving to God, best expressed in Deuteronomy 14:22-29, works better with people who have a sense of duty and need more structure. The more grace-oriented approach found in II Corinthians 9, appeals to people who are more motivated by emotion. Boomers generally fall into this category.

Hugh also gave some very practical instruction about how to reach people of different generations by recognizing how community dynamics function for each. He suggests large group gatherings for older parishioners, medium group gathering (15 – 24 people) for Boomer's, and much smaller groups (6 or 7) for younger adults. He also recommended using shorter time-spans for financial commitments, such as quarterly pledges, which would be more realistic for people operating with a survival or safety mentality.

Of course, all of this information was accompanied by Hugh's special brand of provocative Texan humor, along with plenty of incisive questions by those gathered. You can learn more by visiting the website of The Episcopal Network for Stewardship, at www.tens.org.

A Message From the Treasurer

Fred Boelt

The following paragraph is a quote taken from Fred's report given at the Parish Special Meeting: "And being one not to miss an opportunity, have you noticed all of the ads suggesting how to spend your economic stimulus rebate checks? Grocery and appliance stores are saying that they will increase your amount by ten percent if you deal with them. There are all sorts of pitches out there to reel in your money. Well, how is this for a pitch from Hickory Neck? Consider tithing from the rebate to our debt service! Bold perhaps of me to suggest this, but at the recent Stewardship Conference that was held here for the Jamestown Convocation churches, a



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

lady asked whether this would be proper. Hugh Magers, speaker for the conference, assured her that it would be just fine to suggest tithing of the rebate checks. So, with Hugh's approval, I plant the seed. Will it grow? That is up to you, but it certainly would move us toward an early note burning! And what can we offer you – a chance to thank God for all good things that come to us!"



Summer Reading Suggestions

The Very Reverend Michael L. Delk

John Allen, *Rabble-Rouser for Peace: The Authorized Biography of Desmond Tutu*, 396 pages, \$22.40 hardcover

Retired Archbishop of Cape Town and All South Africa, Desmond Tutu, is a living saint and winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. During a critical time in the life of his nation, he offered a message of compassion, patience, and peace. Eventually, his contributions, along with those of countless others, led to the end of the racially discriminatory policy of apartheid, in which people of color were treated as second-class citizens, and in some instances, as sub-human.

After the election of Nelson Mandela, South Africa's first black president, Tutu was given the honor and grave responsibility of chairing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which was designed to offer an opportunity to get at the truth behind the politically and racially motivated murders of a half-century. By offering amnesty to perpetrators who gave complete confessions, South Africa entered into a new era of racial integration with much more grace and likely much less violence than it otherwise would have done.

This biography is no hagiography. It shows an ordinary human being, warts and all, doing extraordinary things through the grace of God in Jesus Christ. From his relatively humble beginnings, through an excellent education hard won, to the triumphs of his later years, what we find in this volume is a man of prayer, vulnerable to God's Will and to the suffering of his fellow human creatures. It is a touching, powerful, inspiring portrait, that may induce deep introspection upon one's own ordinary life, and how through prayer, Christ might make of each person something truly extraordinary.

Desmond Tutu, *God Has a Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Time*, 146 pages, \$11.95 paperback

Tutu, in his own words, on the core realities of the Christian faith; simple yet sublime, a practical primer somehow also profound, this book could be devoured in an afternoon and savored for a lifetime. Tutu emphasizes the role of *ubuntu*, the African communal concept that a person is only a person through their connection with other people, and how *ubuntu* and the practice of Christian forgiveness are inextricably linked. Throughout the entire volume, Tutu writes of God's love with such passion and authenticity, you can't help but feel the warmth of the man and the Christ who inhabits him.

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