



Hickory Neck Nuggets

Hickory Neck Parish Episcopal Church

May 2006

Inside this Issue

Vestry Highlights 2

Spotlight on "Outreachers" 3

May Celebrations 4

Day and Night, This New Cathedral Buzzes with Excitement 5

Youth Corner 7

Virginia's First Anglican Clergyman 7

Nugget Notes 8

Chapel Consecration Saturday, June 24th

The Reverend Michael L. Delk

I hope you can celebrate with us on Saturday, June 24th, at 3:00 p.m., as we gather to dedicate and consecrate our new chapel, under the leadership of The Right Reverend Charles Vache, Bishop (retired) of Southern Virginia. It promises to be a glorious day, full of joy and wonder, as we mark the completion not only of a building, but of a major common effort to better equip ourselves for the future spread of Christ's Gospel. On this day, we will baptize and confirm, share Holy Communion, and bless the chapel and its most sacred furnishings, vessels, and accoutrement. This article will paint a picture of what to expect.

After parking on a newly paved lot (presuming you arrive early enough!), we will gather in the front lawn

of our Historic Chapel (weather-permitting) to begin our worship with prayer, followed by a grand procession down the hill toward our new chapel. The American and Episcopal flags will flutter behind our Cross in the vanguard. Interspersed throughout the procession, ordinary items about to be made sacred: an altar, a baptismal font, a paschal candle stand, silver communion vessels, richly textured fabrics for our sanctuary.

We will pause at the West Door of the chapel, where the Bishop will place his crosier (a shepherd's staff) and declare, "Let the doors be opened!" Then, we enter the new chapel by all four of its western doors, flooding into the narthex, connected on this

day to the nave by the retraction of the wood-framed glass walls which usually divide the two spaces. Before us lay our new chapel, configured for maximum capacity with well over 300 seats. After a few steps, the flat ceiling vaults to a height of 24 feet, and above us hang replicas of the wrought iron chandeliers that adorn our Historic Chapel. On the left are the nursery spaces for infants and toddlers, where parents can place their children either before or after the procession.

As more and more people find a seat, the organ roars to life, inviting the people to sing, "Christ is made the sure foundation, Christ the head and cornerstone!" Flanking the sides of the Old Donation organ, our Praise Band and our Parish Choir. In front of the organ, a

semi-circular altar rail describes the sanctuary area, already populated with the ambo (much too heavy to move in procession), flower tables alive with color, a credence table standing ready to receive the gleaming silver.

After everyone arrives, we continue our worship with more prayers, and then the Bishop will bless the baptismal font. Once finished, the font will immediately be put to use. We will renew our baptismal covenant, pledge ourselves to nurture the newly baptized in the Christian faith, and we will witness the baptism of the newest members of Christ's One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church.

From the font, the Bishop will move to bless the ambo, a combination lectern and pulpit where the Word of God will be read and preached. After the blessing, the first lessons will ring out, to be heard by all with the help of our sound system, complete with ear pieces for the hearing impaired. The Gospel Book will be blessed and then processed into the midst of the people, followed by the first sermon in our new chapel.

Once the sermon has ended, the candidates for confirmation will come forward, be examined, and confirmed by Bishop Vache. We then pray The Litany of Thanksgiving for a Church, and the Bishop will approach the Altar, made of mahogany hand-crafted by our own Tony Casanave. The Bishop will bless the Holy Table and the sacred vessels and many other items, just prior to

Communion.

We share Communion. People may stand or kneel at the Altar Rail to receive and, once finished, may return to their seats via *the side aisles* in a graceful, fluid motion that only ample space can provide. We will sing some of our favorite Hickory Neck hymns, like "Seek Ye First" and "You are My All in All." After Communion, a brief blessing of our Aumbry, where reserved sacrament will rest in secure solemnity.

After worship concludes, we will enjoy a reception of cookies, coffee, and punch. We invite everyone to bring a batch of their best cookies to share. We hope to celebrate outside in the glebe (between the double rows of crepe myrtles), but depending upon the weather, we may quickly stack the chairs in the chapel and transition our new space into a fellowship hall.

That's just a pencil sketch of what will happen on June 24th. To see the full-color, real-life event, you'll have to be there. It's inevitable that some will be traveling or otherwise unable to attend, but I hope everyone who can attend will make every effort to do so, as we make history together, and experience the joy of praising God for this marvelous blessing.



Vestry Highlights

At its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 11th, the Vestry started early with a PotLuck Sup-

per, during which we viewed a video of our youngest Godly Play classroom in action on a Sunday morning. The Vestry seemed to enjoy learning more about this excellent hands-on curriculum for small children. After supper, the Vestry began its formal meeting with prayer, as always. We then approved the minutes of the March meeting, and heard from two parishioners.

Martha McCartney provided a preliminary report on our Historic Chapel, suggesting immediate small-scale improvements to help better preserve the brick façade. She also offered several larger-scale possibilities on how the Historic Chapel could be evaluated and eventually restored to a peak level of structural and aesthetic integrity. The Vestry encouraged Martha to continue with her inquiries and report again as soon as possible on the progress.

Bert Geddy also appeared before the Vestry, giving us further information on how to acquire a portable defibrillation device. This is a fail-safe mechanism that could save the life of a heart attack victim by applying an electric shock to a stopped or irregularly-beating heart. More and more churches are obtaining this device, through the aid of a grant received by the county, and Hickory Neck may apply in hopes of acquiring the device to better insure the safety and health of our members.

The Treasurer's Report showed us to be about where we expected financially at this point in the year. Contributions toward both the operating budget and the building fund continue to come in at a steady pace. Our operating budget is run-

(continued on page 8)

Spotlight on “Outreachers”

Carol Goff

Where do the following lines come from?

"We believe in God our Father
who made heaven and earth.
We believe in Jesus Christ, His
Only Son, Our Lord.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life to
us and to the church."

Perhaps you guessed the Book of Common Prayer or thought it was something you said long ago in Sunday school or thought it was part of the creed from another denomination. No, these are words from the Children's Creed spoken every Sunday in our Children's Chapel service, conducted during part of the 9 a.m. adult service .

What is Children's Chapel, you ask?

It is one of Hickory Neck's hidden treasures which we all need to be aware of because of the dedication of its lay leaders and the lifelong imprint it is making on our children, ages 3 through 8. Those of us who regularly attend the 9 a.m. service see the children leave after the hymn of praise and then re-enter at the Peace, and probably assume the children go over to the Parish

House to play and have a snack, but the Children's Chapel program is an interactive, age appropriate worship experience which introduces them to the structure of adult worship, not just a time killer or distraction from boredom. The women who conduct this program prepare each Sunday's service with great care.

Children's Chapel falls under the Vestry Ministry of Worship, headed

children. Alita had matched her material about David with scripture passages read in adult church, played a CD with a complementary sing-along song, and distributed three work pages for each of the children - one to color, one a dot connector exercise, and the last, a word scramble puzzle, all of which carried out her theme on David.



When the children enter their classroom, they look to the five pictures above their tables which serve as a visual guide for the order of their service. A prayer is first, followed by a song, then a Bible story, recitation of the Children's Creed and Confession of Sin, another song, and finally a craft project

before they return to their families for Eucharist in the adult service. Their opening prayer echoes the beginning of the adult service: "This is God's house and God is here today. God hears each song we sing and listens while we pray."

Michael and Stephanie Delk brought the concept of Child-

by Connie Kendrick who coordinates requests for program materials and other needs. The "Grandmother Shepherdess" who leads and inspires the flock of ten volunteers who run the program is Alita Small. I recently observed Alita leading a 30 minute service for 15 youngsters, as they eagerly and attentively participated. Some Sundays there are as many as 17

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

ren's Chapel to us four years ago. Instead of the traditional Children's Sermon offered in many churches, they believed in the importance of participation by children in a worship service that mirrors what is done by adults. The children's enthusiasm as they enter and worship in their own "sacred space" in the Parish House reflects the success of Michael and Stephanie's vision for this age group.

I encourage you to visit Children's Chapel. It occurs every Sunday, except Easter and Christmas. If you think you might like to consider helping out, new volunteers are encouraged to observe for a couple of Sundays and then to become a helper to the leader and gradually work into becoming a leader. No teaching background is necessary. In fact, you are encouraged to try your own ideas and style of inter-

action and there are many sources of theme material available; nor do you have to have small children of your own. Grandmothers, grandfathers, uncles and aunts, etc. are welcome and needed as helpers and leaders. As Jean Hancock put it, "I teach adults all day long, but this is always a rewarding half hour for me when it's my turn in the rotation. I get a little nervous, but it's ALWAYS GOOD!! I enjoy it thoroughly."

We honor the following persons who give so much time and planning to Children's Chapel. They are true teachers, not babysitters, who are making prayer, song, Bible stories, and worship a vital part of these young lives. We salute the dedication and hard work given to this program by Alita Small, Denise Deal, Stephanie Delk, Susie Blanchard, Toni Small, Terri Lensenmeyer, Janet Parsons, Paula Simmons, Ann Chlebos, Katina Luksovsky, and Jean Hancock. You are giving a lifetime gift to our youngest.



Some of the Children's Chapel Staff (pictured from left to right): Jean Hancock, Denise Deal, Stephanie Delk, Alita Small and Connie Kendrick (Vestry Chairperson for Worship). Not present for picture: Susie Blanchard, Ann Chlebos, Terri Lensenmeyer, Katrina Luksovsky, Janet Parsons, Paula Simmons and Toni Small.

May Celebrations



Birthdays

- 1 - Lily Dutro
- 2 - Ward Burian
- 2 - Mary Jo Smith
- 3 - Blake Gay
- 4 - Lynn Kelley
- 5 - Bobby Pringle
- 6 - Kelsey Luksovsky
- 7 - Susan Blanchard
- 7 - Ree Stone
- 8 - Tony Cicero
- 9 - Bert Geddy
- 10 - Jennie McCray
- 11 - Ann Dieterle
- 12 - Alita Small
- 13 - Ben Field
- 15 - Ruth Rowland
- 15 - Margaret Sutton
- 18 - Linda McGee
- 20 - David Ware
- 22 - Amanda Buckley
- 22 - Diane Perry
- 30 - Paul Casanave

Anniversaries

- 9 - Judy & Jesse Hodges
- 17 - Tara & Ervin Best
- 27 - Tina & Noel Sinclair
- 30 - Jessica & Stuart Hughes

Day and Night, This New Cathedral Buzzes with Excitement

The Reverend Lauren R. Stanley

RENK, Sudan - So what exactly does one do with a brand spanking new cathedral in the middle of Sudan? Well, if you are Bishop Daniel Deng Bul of the Diocese of Renk, you fill it, all day, every day - with as many people and as many programs as you can think of. And when you get all those people in and programs running, you come up with more programs to draw in more people. Until suddenly, you have a cathedral that is buzzing with activity and filled with vibrancy from sun-up to sundown.

At least, that's what is happening here in Renk, 250 miles south of Khartoum, in the border area between the Arab Muslim North and the black, Christian and traditionalist South. The opening of any cathedral is always a joyous event, and this one's was no different. Four thousand people attended the dedication on February 28th, including the Archbishops of Canterbury and Sudan, the British Ambassador to Sudan, ten Americans and a host of guests from throughout the country. Since that glorious day, the cathedral has taken its place on the forefront of life in Renk, and in Southern Sudan. It is the first cathedral ever built this far north in the south, and may be the first Anglican one built in this country since independence in 1956. Those facts alone make it unique.

But St. Matthew's is more than bricks and mortar. It is a place where people come every day, sometimes to pray, sometimes to work, often simply to sit and talk and find peace in its shadow.

So what do you do with a place this

big, this special? Well, you start by adding an English language service every Sunday morning, complete with communion, to bring in those who speak English, or want to improve their English, or who no longer wish to worship in Arabic.

Then you add in at least two Bible studies each week, conducted in Arabic, Dinka and English, and add in singing and prayers. Toss in the praying of the Litany every Wednesday. Add two youth gatherings per week for the young adults.

Have one night dedicated to Sunday School education. Add another night dedicated to the women's group, called the Mothers' Union here. Make Saturday the day for visiting the homebound and the ailing, bringing food and comfort and prayers. And that's just for openers, as part of the regular schedule of the cathedral.

Then, in the very first month of its life, add in a peace, justice and reconciliation training event for 65 people from throughout Upper Nile Province. The training, sponsored and run by the Life and Peace Institute out of Switzerland, covered conflict negotiation; reconciliation; the Comprehensive Peace Agreement signed last year that finally brought peace to this war-torn land; and HIV/AIDS training, among other things. Then send those 65 people out into the province, where they will gather and train others, until peace, justice and reconciliation become real, tangible things in the lives of Southern Sudanese. (The Life and Peace Institute has been astounded at how quickly

the Renk Diocese set up this training, and how quickly it is sending people out to do the actual work. Usually, it seems, there is a long delay between any training and putting it into action.)

At the same time (literally – one event was outside, the other inside), gather as many high school seniors as possible from all the Christian denominations and hold a prayer service for them as they prepare to take their Sudan Certificate exams, a grueling, 15-day event that will determine the course of their lives, and of Southern Sudan, for many years to come. Then, as the exams are taking place, make sure the students are cared for, tutored and prayed over every evening.

Follow these events with a huge peace rally in the town's football arena, with more than 600 people present, to stress the need for this new peace to become a real – and lasting – peace. Make sure you invite the local government officials, too, so they can hear the church's strident voice calling for peace and justice. Have the local Roman Catholic youth choir sing at the rally, and invite pastors from other denominations to speak, so that all know that the Christian churches here are united and

(continued on page 7)



Students and local priests gather to pray recently as the students prepare to take their 15 day Sudan Certificate exams in Renk, Sudan. The exams determine who can go on to university.

Some of the 65 participants of the peace, justice and reconciliation training celebrate at the end of their training, which was sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Renk in South Sudan in March, and conducted by the Life and Peace Institute. The training took two weeks and covered conflict negotiation, justice, reconciliation, understanding the peace treaty and HIV/AIDS training.



Bishop Daniel Deng Bul, right, of the Episcopal Diocese of Renk in South Sudan, addresses the peace rally sponsored by the Diocese and St. Matthew's Cathedral. More than 600 people attended the rally in the town's football arena to hear church leaders speak of the need for peace, justice, reconciliation and development in South Sudan.

Day and Night...

(Continued from page 5)

speak with one voice for all the people.

These events, and more, have made up the life of the cathedral in its first month of existence. There will be more events, and more people, just as soon as the bishop and the diocese can think of them. A desperate shortage of money limits what can be done, but hope is high here, and so is the excitement. You can see it and feel it every single day at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Renk, Sudan.

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(The Reverend Lauren R. Stanley is an appointed missionary serving in the Diocese of Renk in the Episcopal Church of Sudan.)



Youth Corner

Thank You!

Thanks to everyone who came out to support the Lenten Soups over the last five weeks. Thanks to you, we raised over \$600 for the new school in Sudan! Special thanks to our chefs, Nancy Geddes, Michael Wilson and John Dutro.

Relay for Life

Spaghetti-To Go

No need to shop for dinner or go out to eat on May 7th. The youth teams will once again be selling Spaghetti-To-Go dinners after services on Sunday, May 7th. Dinners will come complete with Bert Geddy's homemade sauce, spaghetti, and fresh bread! All you need to do is boil water, sit back and enjoy! All proceeds will go to the Hickory Neck Heavenly Hikers Relay for Life teams.

Car Wash

Keep your cars dirty so our youth teams can wash them on May 21st while you're in church! All Proceeds from the car wash will also go to the Heavenly Hikers Relay For Life teams.

Mission Trip

The high school group is planning its first mission trip in the history of Hickory Neck! Plans so far will take us to the Eastern Shoire to perform home repairs for a community in need. We look forward to sharing our plans with you and we hope you will support our efforts as we build this piece of Hickory Neck History.

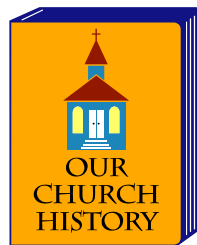
Upcoming Events

May 7th - Combined Youth Group at Bruton - 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

No Youth Group on May 14th or May 28th.

Virginia's First Anglican Clergyman

Martha McCartney



The Reverend Robert Hunt immigrated to Virginia in the first party of settlers and on May 13, 1607, landed at what became known as Jamestown Island. He was the former vicar of Heathfield Parish, in Sussex, England, and a much respected clergyman. Upon arriving in the colony, the Reverend Hunt diligently administered to the needs of the settlers by conducting religious ceremonies. Undoubtedly, he performed many funerals.

From Captain John Smith's writings, we know that shortly after the first colonists came ashore, they "did hang an awning (which is an old saile) to three or foure trees to shadow us from the Sunne." He added that the make-shift church's walls were "railes of wood, our seats unhewed trees, till we cut planks, our pulpit a bar of wood nailed to two neighboring trees." Smith said that when the weather was bad, worship services were held in an old tent. Later, the settlers built a church, "a homely thing like a barne" whose walls were covered with sedge (sod) and earth. In this humble house-of-worship the Virginia colony's first settlers had "daily Common Prayer morning and evening, every Sunday two sermons, and every three months the holy communion."

In early January 1608, shortly after the first supply of new settlers arrived, a fire swept through the fort, rapidly consuming the colonists' insubstantial houses and their belongings, as well as the palisades that had provided some protection from the natives. The Reverend Robert Hunt suffered a devastating personal loss, for virtually all of his books, clothing, and other possessions were destroyed. Within a few months time, he became ill and died. "Good master Hunt" reportedly was beloved by the Jamestown colonists. However, his will, presented to English probate officials on July 14, 1608, suggests that he was a highly suspicious man who had a troubled marriage.



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

Vestry Highlights (continued from page 2)

ning a slight deficit. However, the Treasurer felt that Easter and an April with five Sundays might balance the budget by the next meeting. In May, we will begin borrowing heavily from our construction loan for the new chapel, months beyond the point when we had originally anticipated doing so.

After hearing brief reports from the Wardens and the clergy, the Vestry went into executive session to discuss routine personnel matters. No other business was discussed, and the Vestry adjourned cheerfully with prayer.

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



Nugget Notes

Join the Cursillo Community at a special outdoor Ultreya on Saturday, May 20th. We'll start earlier than usual - at 5:30 p.m. so that we can enjoy outside activities. Our hosts are **Mayes and Cheryl Mathews**

2116 Forge Rd., Toano, Virginia. We'll walk the Stations of the Cross on a lakeside trail, sing hymns, and cook dinner on the grill. Bring your own meat to grill and a dish to share. In case of rain, check the church's web site for location information at www.hickoryneck.org/cursillo.html.

Come to Hickory Neck on May 20th for our annual Spring Clean Up. The primary areas to work on will be the flowerbeds. We need to mulch them, do some planting, and anything else we can do to help beautify them. There will be sign-up sheets in the Parish House for the different areas of involvement. So bring your gardening tools and join the fun. Refreshments to be provided. Rain day is scheduled for June 3rd. For more information,

contact **Brian Manning** at 565-1040 or email him at brosmaning@intergate.com.

Vacation Bible School is Coming! Hickory Neck, St. Martin's and Bruton traditionally join together for Vacation Bible School in the summer. Hickory Neck is hosting this year, and it will be held on August 7 – 11, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Save the Date! Registration information will be in the mail shortly. This year our theme is SonTreasure Island! Children and youth ages 3 through the 5th grade are invited to attend. If you are interested in helping in any way, please speak with co-chairs **Denise Deal** or **Linda Becker**. There will be a general informational meeting for all interested volunteers on Monday, June 5th at 7:00 p.m.

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June Deadline - May 15th

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