



Hickory Neck Nuggets

Hickory Neck Parish Episcopal Church

May 2007

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Stopping to Start Again

The Very Reverend Michael L. Delk

By the time you read this, there will be about a week left before my sabbatical begins. I anticipate that final week with a great deal of ambivalence. On the one hand, I am very excited about the opportunities for growth and renewal that are available both for me and for the parish during these three months apart. On the other hand, it occurred to me a few weeks ago that on May 7th, I'll wake up and stay home for 90 days.

The entire rhythm of my life will change. I've been thinking about everything that goes into the peculiar "routine" of a priest's life. For 90 days, I will not preach or prepare a sermon. I will not teach or prepare a class. I will not visit hospitals or homes, attend parish parties or dinners. I will not offer pastoral counsel or convene any meetings – staff, Vestry, or otherwise. I will not plan programs or strategize for the future. (OK, I might sneak in a little bit of the latter.) I will not marry, bury, baptize, or celebrate Communion.

All of these things have defined most of my waking moments over the past ten years, and I have enjoyed almost all of them. On May 7th, for 90 days, I'll just stop. Just thinking about it freaks me out. I will miss the many tasks that fill a priest's day. I will miss Hickory Neck. I ask for your prayers as we embark upon this stage of our



I'm Taking a Break!

our journey, and I hope the time is fruitful – spiritually, intellectually, and physically. In fact, I dedicate myself to making it so, in respect of the gift the parish has given me. Despite all my concerns, I am immensely grateful for this time away. It is a cherished blessing.

On Sunday, May 6th, we will mark my departure at all three Eucharist with a brief

ritual between the Peace and the Offertory. At 10:15 a.m., the men of the parish will be preparing breakfast, as they did on December 24th. I hope we can all have breakfast together that day as a way of saying "farewell" and "see you soon." And I am coming back, on August 8th to be precise, with the intention of sticking around for as long as I'm useful.

While I'm away, as I've said and written many times before, Hickory Neck will be in excellent hands. Ann will take care of you pastorally, and she has plenty of backup. Three guest preachers - possibly four - will be visiting over the summer, and local Episcopal clergy have pledged their support, in case things get a little crazy. The Staff, the Wardens, and the Vestry will continue to do their work with the same commitment as always.

Just be yourself, folks, and everything will be fine. Keep singing like you mean it. Treat each other with kindness when distressed. Cele-

brate when the occasion warrants. (And if there is no particular occasion, create one.) Show hospitality to our guests. Be a little goofy and spontaneous. Share Christ. Just because I'm pushing the pause button on May 7th doesn't mean that Hickory Neck has to slow down even a single mph.

As for me, don't worry much. I'll have some withdrawal symptoms, of course. But that will comprise part of my learning on this sabbatical. As much as I enjoy serving as a priest, being apart from those responsibilities for a while will help me appreciate the privilege of being a priest that much more. And along the way, I'll get a really good rest. So watch out. When I come back, the rocket will be fully fueled and ready to roar as never before.

Update on the Election of our New Bishop

The Very Reverend Michael L. Delk

As you may recall, the Diocese of Southern Virginia, at its Annual Council in February, voted to initiate a search for a new bishop. Since that time, preparatory steps have been taken by the Transition Team and the Standing Committee of the Diocese. The core process will soon begin in earnest, and everyone in the diocese will have an opportunity to participate.

In general, Episcopal elections follow a pattern not unlike what

a parish does when it searches for a rector. A series of meetings will be scheduled across the diocese, open to anyone who wishes to attend. These meetings will give parishioners a chance to ask questions and answer questions designed to discern who we are as a diocese. The information gathered in these sessions will be crystallized into a diocesan profile, which will be distributed throughout the Episcopal Church.

While this is happening, a Nominating Committee will be formed. In a parish, this is called a Search Committee. The Nominating Committee will consist of one clergy person and one lay person from each of the nine convocations in the diocese. A May meeting with the convocational deans, Bishop Buchanan, the Standing Committee, and the Transition Team will determine how representatives from the convocations will be selected.

The Nominating Committee will receive names. Any Episcopalian in good standing may submit the name of any eligible cleric. Those who agree to be considered will be asked to return written information. We can probably anticipate dozens, if not scores, of potential candidates to accept this invitation.

The Nominating Committee will then begin to narrow down the field, using as a criteria the information gathered from the diocese and crystallized in the diocesan profile. Once the field is narrowed down sufficiently, prospective candidates will be visited by members of the Nominating Committee. Phone interviews may also be used to get better acquainted.

After prayerful discernment, the Nominating Committee will pro-

duce a slate of finalists, usually four to eight clergy. These finalists will visit the Diocese for a period of several days, rotating to different locations, where they will answer questions in the presence of whoever chooses to attend.

Not long after these sessions, the diocese will convene a special electoral Council, consisting of clergy and of lay delegates chosen by each congregation in the diocese. Votes will be tallied until one candidate receives a majority of votes in both the lay order and the clergy order. The one who does so will be consecrated Bishop of Southern Virginia. At its February Council, the diocese originally scheduled the election for May 2008. However, it is already evident that this date is much too ambitious. What is worth doing right takes time. The new projected date of the special electoral Council is October 2008, with the consecration of the newly elected bishop to occur in early 2009. That may seem far away, but with all the work we have to do as a diocese to choose the right person as bishop, the time will pass quickly.





In the Spotlight

Carol Goff



A couple of weeks ago, while my husband, David, was watering the Memorial Garden, he encountered a visitor who had stopped by to sit in the Historic Chapel, something she does quite regularly. He invited her to have a look at the new chapel, but she declined, since she is so fond of the historic sanctuary. "It must be hard to make a change to a whole new place of worship," she said. Dave agreed and then added: "But the people are the same!" I think this comment captures the essence of our congregation--a quiet, unassuming dedication of time and energy by our members. This month we shine the spotlight on Jean Hancock, one of those "under the radar" persons who labor behind the scenes to ensure the success of Hickory Neck's mission.

Jean and her husband are long time residents of this area, relocating here in 1975 from Texas to be near

Jean's retired parents who live in Yorktown and to carve out new careers for themselves. Jean spent her childhood and teenage years as an Air Force brat moving around the country with her family for many tours. Williamsburg offered a settled lifestyle and, although Jean had worked in the Human Resources department of a San Antonio hospital, she quickly found a niche as a costumed interpreter for Colonial Williamsburg while her husband became part of the William and Mary Campus Police force.

After four years, she moved into the Colonial Williamsburg Human Resources division, gradually specializing and becoming accredited in their training programs. Today she spends one full day each week conducting orientation training for all new employees and volunteers of Colonial Williamsburg. In addition, she leads training seminars in the fields of Time and Stress Management, Communications, and Meyers Briggs Personality Analysis; however, her most successful training program occurred at home. When her husband retired, she designed and supervised his accreditation as Domestic Engineer in cooking, cleaning, and laundry management so that, after a long day, she could come home to a clean home and a hot dinner. When she herself retires next January, perhaps she would be willing to enlarge her training seminar to include other retired Hickory Neck husbands.

Jean has attended the Episcopal Church since her baptism in third grade and Hickory Neck since 1986. She works on the Altar Guild and participates in the Wednesday Prayer Shawl knitting group. This past fall she took on the large job of coordinating the Children's Chapel program which provides an age appropriate worship experience for our age three to eight members during the 9:00 o'clock service. The Children's Chapel worship service mirrors the adult one and then returns the children to their families to share the Eucharist celebration.

To that end, Jean spends several hours each week researching and preparing materials for each Sunday's Children's Chapel service. She checks the "Day By Day" pamphlet for the Sunday's scripture reading, consults the Children's Bible for a story that echoes the same themes, and then studies several websites to find additional exercises and materials that enhance those themes and are geared for the age group. After selecting her materials, she puts together a package for that Sunday's leader, emails the lesson plan to her, and then makes hard copies of hands-on materials. Each Sunday, Jean arrives early
(continued on page 8)

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

May Celebrations



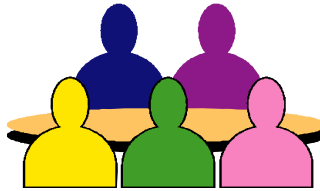
Birthdays

- 1 - Lily Dutro
- 2 - Ward Burian
- 2 - Mary Jo Smith
- 3 - Blake Gay
- 4 - Lynn Kelley
- 5 - Bob Pringle
- 5 - Neal Lensenmeyer
- 6 - Kelsey Luksovsky
- 7 - Jeanne Williams
- 7 - Ree Stone
- 7 - Suzi Blanchard
- 8 - Tony Cicero
- 9 - Bert Geddy
- 9 - Gary Lensenmeyer
- 10 - Jennie McCray
- 11 - Ann Dieterle
- 12 - Alita Small
- 13 - Ben Field
- 15 - Margaret Sutton
- 15 - Ruth Rowland
- 18 - Linda McGee
- 20 - David Ware
- 20 - Rebecca Smith
- 22 - Diane Perry
- 22 - Amanda Buckley
- 23 - Woody Lake
- 23 - Sharon Ware
- 26 - Trevor Simmons
- 27 - Joanne Izzo
- 30 - Paul Casanave
- 30 - Lou Siegel

Anniversaries

- 9 - Judy & Jesse Hodges
- 14 - Debbie & Robert Coles
- 17 - Tara & Ervin Best
- 20 - Tanya & Chuck White
- 22 - Barbara & George Johnson
- 24 - Barbara & Ray Laroche
- 27 - Tina & Noel Sinclair
- 30 - Jessica & Stuart Hughes
- 31 - Barbara & Bryan Husted

If your birthday or anniversary is this month and you are not listed above, please send the appropriate information to 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, April 10, 2007, in the Parish House. The minutes of the March 13, 2007 Vestry meeting as well as the Treasurer's report were approved. The Senior Warden reported that he had attended Holy Week/Triduum service leading up to Easter Sunday. He expressed the hope that more parishioners would make this journey to Easter next year since he found Easter Day all the more meaningful when Holy Week was taken as a whole. The Associate Rector reported that plans for a third Godly Play classroom are well under way; there will be a second combined mini-retreat for pastoral caregivers in the upcoming months; the tentative

schedule for Vacation Bible School (to be held at St. Martin's this year) will be August 6th to 10th, as a collaboration of Hickory Neck Church, Bruton Parish Church and St. Martin's; Sunday School Recognition will be Sunday, June 10th at 10:15 a.m.; and fundraising for Relay for Life will begin with a spaghetti dinner on April 15th for pre-orders and on April 22nd dinners go on sale. The Rector reported that there was very good attendance at Easter services and expressed gratitude to all who made Holy Week a powerful worship experience. He also reminded the Vestry that the second flight of the Parish Visioning Process small group meetings will begin on April 19th. The Vestry received reports from the Newcomers and Outreach Committees. The next Vestry meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 8th at 7 p.m.

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.



Baptisms

Grayson James Ryan

New Members

Sarah Fertig

Burials

Claudia Gardner

Vestry Appoints New Member to Fill Vacancy

The Very Reverend Michael L. Delk

As you may already know, the Luksovsky family has been assigned to a new naval post in Florida. Their departure saddens the entire Hickory Neck family, and Katrina's absence has created a vacancy on the Vestry. According to the by-laws approved by the parish, Vestry has authority to appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the year, with any remaining year(s) of a vacant term to be filled by special election at the next Annual Parish Meeting (currently scheduled for November).

By unanimous consent, the Vestry has appointed Melissa Casheros to serve as Vestry member without portfolio for the remainder of 2007. We welcome Melissa to this position of leadership. Before moving to Williamsburg, Melissa served as Senior Warden at a parish in Florida, so she brings tremendous experience to this appointment. Melissa has been very active in our children's ministry at Hickory Neck, and has a wide range of gifts to offer. Thank you, Melissa, for your willingness to serve on short notice. We're blessed to have you aboard Vestry.

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.

We have received donations totaling \$10,127.00 (as of April 16, 2007) for our organ repairs and improvements. The first phase will cost \$7,834.50 and the contract has been signed and deposit sent. This work will be done in June. The second phase will cost \$12,000.00 and we will continue to raise funds for this part of the project. It would be great if we could accomplish this also this summer. If you can again help with the funding, please make our tellers smile and write "Organ Fund" on the memo line of your check. We extend a large "THANK YOU" to all of you who have so generously supported this project, which we will all benefit from, to say nothing of preserving our fine organist's sanity!

There will be a silent retreat at the Episcopal Convent of St. Helena in Augusta, Georgia June 8-10, 2007. Women of the Parish will leave by car June 7th, spend one night in

a motel en route, attend the silent retreat from Friday to Sunday, spend one night in a motel and return June 11th. Please contact **Ann Sloan** (gildy@cox.net)(221-0180) if you are interested or have questions.

The Youth group would like to thank everyone who supported their Spaghetti-to-Go fundraiser.

Ultreya will meet on May 19th at Hickory Neck. The meeting will be a covered dish supper and will start at 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, May 6th, will be Father Michael's final Sunday prior to the beginning of his three-month sabbatical. On that day, as a way of saying "see you later" and Godspeed, the men of the parish will be serving breakfast during our Fellowship Hour at 10:15 a.m. We did this on the morning of December 24th, after the Children's Christmas Pageant, and it was delightful. We hope you can come. Contact Bert Geddy if you want to help at 566-0234 or lynn0234@cox.net.

Shrine Mont 2007 convenes July 15-19 in Orkney Springs, Virginia. The theme is "Mending the Sacred Hoop: The Significance, Failure and Promise of Jamestown". Cost for the four day conference is \$399.00 Registration brochures are available at the Parish House.



Archbishop of Canterbury to Visit America

**The Very Reverend
Michael L. Delk**

The Most Reverend Rowan Williams, Archbishop of Canterbury, has announced his intention to meet with the Episcopal Church's House of Bishops at their scheduled September meeting in New Orleans. At their March meeting in Texas, the House of Bishops unanimously requested a formal visit from the Archbishop, to continue discussion on controversial matters disturbing the Communion.

Archbishop Williams will be accompanied by the Standing Committee of the Anglican Communion, which consists of seven primates from across the globe. Representatives of the Anglican Consultative Council, one of the primary instruments of authority, will also be present. The ACC is comprised of one bishop, one priest, and one lay person from each of the 38 provinces.

The House of Bishops' request was made in response to the Communiqué issued by the Primates at their February meeting in Tanzania. The Communiqué demanded a series of decisions and actions by the House of Bishops no later than the end of September, decisions and actions that the House of Bishops could not make alone without violating the Constitution and Canons of

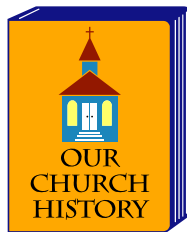
the Episcopal Church.

Unlike veritably every other province in the Anglican Communion, the Episcopal Church functions democratically, allowing lay people and clergy to legislate alongside bishops. In other Anglican provinces, bishops and archbishops function autonomously, with little or no input from laity and clergy. To preserve our independence as a province and to protect the democratic character of our polity, the House of Bishops declined to meet the conditions of the Primates' ultimatum.

No agenda for the Archbishop's meeting with the House of Bishops has been published, but we will continue to provide information about this key event, which will likely have major repercussions for the future of the Anglican Communion and the Episcopal Church's relationship with it.

The Jamestown Colonists

Martha W. McCartney



The first English colonists, who arrived at Jamestown Island on May 13, 1607, were accompanied by the Reverend Robert Hunt, an Anglican clergyman. According to Captain John Smith, "*We 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 noted that when the weather was bad, the Reverend Hunt held worship services in an old tent. He said that the settlers later built "*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.*" As the death toll soared, the Reverend Hunt undoubtedly conducted many funeral sermons. The trying times undoubtedly were a test of faith.

In early January 1608, shortly after the first supply of new settlers arrived, a devastating fire swept through the fort, rapidly consuming the colonists' insubstantial houses. It also burned the church and the palisades that had provided protection from the sometimes hostile native population. Afterward, Captain Christopher Newport and his mariners helped the colonists rebuild and repair.

During the winter of 1609-1610, the infamous "Starving Time," conditions in the colony deteriorated dramatically and those who managed to survive barely clung to life. It was only the timely arrival of Thomas West, Lord Delaware on June 10, 1610, that averted the abandonment of the colony. Thanks to that pivotal event, Virginia became the first permanent English colony in the continental United States.



Kyle and Katrina Luksovsky
1809 Wards Landing Court
Orange Park, FL 32003

Relay for Life Will Be Here Soon

Pat Meszaros

Karen and John Dutro have been dropping hints the last couple of months! The Youth have been doing it for years! RELAY FOR LIFE is a community wide fundraising effort to raise money for the American Cancer Society and cancer research. It will take place in Williamsburg at Jamestown High School from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 a.m. on June 8-9, 2007. Teams gather to walk around the track all night to join in the fight against cancer. 2007 is the inaugural year of our parish-wide participation in the Relay for Life. Our Youth have given Hickory Neck Episcopal Church a visible presence to the greater Williamsburg community for the past four years. This year, as a project of the Outreach Council, we are seeking Hickory Neck Heavenly Hikers of all ages from our entire congregation. You can help in many ways. You can be a prayer partner, adding names of your loved ones affected by cancer to our Relay prayer list; you can sign up to walk a one half hour shift the night of the Relay; or you can offer to bring food or drink for our "Relayers". There will be opportunities for everyone to participate. Look for details soon!



The Kiosk is Coming

The Very Reverend Michael L. Delk

Ever since our new chapel was completed, foot traffic in the Parish House on Sunday has been significantly reduced. This has presented a communications challenge, because most of our sign-up sheets and informative displays were housed in the Parish House, where everyone used to congregate for coffee and class. So far, we've made due in the new chapel Narthex by putting sign-up sheets on tables and easels, but that has not proven to be an optimal solution.

We considered putting up bulletin boards, but if you take a look around the Narthex, you'll notice that there's not a lot of open wall space. We have two bathroom doors, four doors for the galley kitchen, a door to access our electrical closet, another door for the vesting room, yet another door for the nursery, a see-through window for the nursery, and the original rendering of the historic chapel. Whew! No place for a bulletin board in there.

So we've commissioned our favorite master cabinetmaker (again) to produce a four-sided kiosk. This

kiosk will provide ample space to post sign-up sheets, flyers, and posters about upcoming events at Hickory Neck and within the broader community. Though large and of solid wood construction, the kiosk will be mobile (like pretty much everything else), so that we can shift it around or even store it if an event requires all the space we can muster.

Hopefully, by the time you read this, the kiosk will be near completion. Make sure you visit it regularly. You wouldn't want to miss out!

Nuggets of Appreciation



A huge thank you to everyone who worked so faithfully to make our Holy Week observance and Easter celebration so wonderful. The flowers were gorgeous. All of the liturgical guilds -- acolyte, altar, chalice bearer, greeter, reader, usher -- everybody did an excellent job of leading the congregation in the praise of Jesus. Our musicians -- Praise Band, Parish Choir and Choral



(as of 3/31/2007)

YTD Budget Income	\$ 85,314.24
YTD Actual Income	\$ 91,278.55
YTD Budget Expenses	\$ 85,314.24
YTD Actual Expenses	\$ 95,521.33
Loan Balances	\$630,034.00
(as of 4-1-07)	



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

Scholars played and sang beautifully. Those who helped with our hosting of the Diocesan Chrism mass and Renewal of Ordination Vows, especially the team that prepared lunch, showed our guests the highest level of hospitality. The ground crews who worked so hard on two different Saturdays had our campus looking better than ever, and the Parish Life committee supported their efforts with wonderful meals. At least a hundred people helped in some way to make our Holy Days truly special.

In the Spotlight

(continued from page 3)

to set up the Children's Chapel area in the narthex and makes sure the folder of materials is ready. Having a carefully prepared lesson plan ensures that the program's goals are met and relieves busy mothers from a time consuming task.

Jean shared with me her new appreciation of just how much preparation is involved for Father Michael and Pastor Ann to get ready for each Sunday's service. In addition to her satisfaction with preparing a meaningful worship experience for the children, Jean told me that the reading and studying involved contributes to her own Bible knowledge and spiritual

journey. Yes, "But the people are the same!" says it all, and this month we salute the loving contributions made by Jean to the mission of Hickory Neck



The Seventh Annual Hickory Neck Fall Festival is Only Five Months Away!

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

CAR WASH May 20th



The Hickory Neck Relay for Life Teams will be host-

ing their annual car wash on Sunday, May 20. While you're in church getting a spiritual cleansing, we will be outside giving your car a good cleansing, so keep them dirty (your car that is!). We will start washing at 8:30 a.m. and will be on hand to take your car anytime up until 12:00 noon. The cost is \$10.00 per car and all money raised will go to the American Cancer Society.



Bruton Parish is sponsoring the 15th Annual Summer Music Camp from July 9 –

13, 2007. The camp runs from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and features singing, musical instruments and crafts. The camp is for youth who have finished grades 1 through 7. To register, contact Blair Turrentine at 273-1198. The tuition is \$50. The registration deadline is June 1st.

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June Deadline - May 15th