



Hickory Neck Nuggets

Hickory Neck Parish Episcopal Church

October 2006

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Our First Annual Parish Family Retreat "The Way and How of Prayer"

The Reverend Michael L. Delk

Need to get away, even if only for a day? Want to press the pause button on life and leave behind the daily grind? Looking for a way to reconnect with God and your faith family? Join us Friday, October 27 – Saturday, October 28, at our diocesan retreat center, Chanco on the James, for our first Parish Family Retreat.

We will begin our weekend Friday night with registration at 5:30 p.m. A social hour and supper will commence at 6:00 p.m. Around 7:00, we'll convene for a fun get-to-know-you series of fellowship activities, concluded by the prayer service, Compline, at 9:00 p.m. Then, you can go to bed, or stay up with your friends.

On Saturday, breakfast starts at 8:00 a.m., with Morning Prayer at 8:30 a.m. Around 9:00, we'll start focusing on our retreat theme: "The Why and How of Prayer." We'll explore why it's important to

pray and what benefit we can receive from the discipline of prayer. Four workshops will offer insights to the various ways that Christians have learned to pray throughout the centuries. Led by Father Michael, Pastor Ann, Joan Forrest, and Bob Gay, these workshops will offer practical wisdom on

might change your life. You can choose two of four workshops.

Before lunch, we'll reconvene in our large group to consider the why and how of our corporate prayer life. In other words, we'll talk for an hour about worship, specifically the Eucharist, which is the chief model of how we pray together. We'll discuss how community prayer strengthens our resolve for personal prayer, and how personal prayer enriches our experience of worship. Then, we'll break for lunch, and the afternoon will be free for you to try out the new methods of prayer

you've encountered. Or you can hike around the beautiful wood-covered Chanco, read a book, take a nap, chat with friends. Whatever you like.

During the morning series of large group chats and small group workshops, we will have activities for children, from upper-2's through age



how to connect better with God. From the contemplative and meditative traditions to more "active" prayer forms, like using the daily offices of the Book of Common Prayer, each of these workshops will provide information you can translate into practice – practice that

ten. We encourage young people over the age of ten to join the adults, so that they too can learn about these prayer practices, vital for them as they mature into adults. Our smaller children will explore prayer through making prayer beads and a variety of other engaging hands-on activities.

Our retreat will conclude at 3:00 p.m. with Holy Eucharist. We will finish around 4:00 p.m., grab the 4:30 ferry, and be back on the James City County side of the James about 5:00 p.m. It sounds like a quick trip, but some wonderful things can happen in a short time. Friendships can be born, renewed, or deepened. Important lessons might be learned about how to pray. But perhaps most important, retreat is about making time for ourselves and each other and God, in the midst of what can be a hectic world.

The cost for the retreat is \$70 per person for a single occupancy room, and \$60 per person for double occupancy. Children between the ages of five and eleven pay a reduced rate of \$47, and children under five go for free. This fee includes three meals. Application forms are available in the Parish House and in the New Chapel Narthex, or you can call or e-mail your reservation into the parish office.

If you've never been to Chanco, it's a pretty posh place, with the best "camp" food I've ever had, and accommodations that are clean and comfortable. Rooms have a private bath with shower, and

we'll likely be staying in the chalets that sit right on the bluff above the James. Scholarships are available for folks in a tight spot. Please contact me or Ann.

I encourage you to sign-up soon for this inaugural Parish Family Retreat. We have reserved 70 spots at Chanco, and of this writing, a dozen people have already committed to go. This retreat will provide an opportunity for great fellowship with our parish family and with God. On October 27th, I look forward to seeing you on the other side of the James at Chanco.



Baptisms

Alyssa Maria Deal

New Members

Ann & Don Bartholomay
 Eve & Tom Gee
 Christine, Brian, Madeleine &
 Abigail Hanlon
 Shirley & David Henderson
 Maria Kane
 Tracy and Jamie McClendon
 Suzanne & Paul Olsen

Historical Recycling

Martha W McCartney

In colonial Virginia, parish vestries were obliged to provide a glebe or home farm for their clergy. The parish priest could reside upon the glebe if he so desired, or he could place it in the hands of a tenant, using the rent money to supplement his income. Blisland Parish's glebe was located in what is now New Kent County. The glebe had a dwelling and a cluster of small out-buildings: slave quarters, a barn, a dairy, a corn crib, a hen house, and a house for curing tobacco. Eighteenth century vestry records reveal that although Blisland Parish's vestry tried to keep the buildings on the glebe in good repair, the clergy usually preferred to live elsewhere.

After the close of the American Revolution, Blisland Parish's glebe was sold and the proceeds were divided between the Overseers of the Poor for James City and New Kent Counties. In 1824 James City County's share of those funds, a modest \$1,000, were put toward converting Hickory Neck Church into a primary school for local children. It was around 1825 that the oldest part of historic Hickory Neck Church (built in 1734) was razed and the southern end of the north transept (built in 1774) was extended, bricked up, and converted into a school house. By the 1840s, the Hickory Neck School had become an academy or secondary school. The Hickory Neck Academy served the local community until 1908, when the Toano School opened its doors. It stood at the corner where the fire station is now located.



Spotlight on “Outreachers”

Carol Goff

Each Sunday, as we enter the Historic Chapel or the New Chapel for one of three services, we find an altar lovingly prepared by a group of dedicated ladies, who make up the Altar Guild. This group works quietly behind the scenes to assist Father Michael and Pastor Ann and to create an ambience for meaningful worship for us. As one of the guild members expressed it, "When we do our work, nobody notices" and, of course, she meant her comment in a spirit of pride and satisfaction.

I attended a meeting of the guild in July as they discussed some of the organizational issues to accommodate two sanctuaries that require spotless linens, polished silver and brass, oil filled candles, altar linens in appropriate design and color for the occasion, and careful placement of books and Eucharistic elements. Their duties require exacting attention to detail as they fulfill each task and check it off according to a complex list and diagram in the sacristy. The guild also prepares the altar for special events such as weddings, funerals, and the extra services at Easter and Christmas.

During the meeting, the first topics

of discussion involved the relative merits of “Endust” and “Old Gold” products for dusting and polishing the flower tables and other furniture, tips on polishing silver and brass, a spill proof method for filling the candles, and the weekly laundering and ironing of linens. When I asked what membership in the guild meant on a deeper level, I received some inspiring responses. Several of our guild members had



mothers who served and taught their daughters the responsibilities. They expressed pride in carrying on that family tradition. At least one of our Hickory Neck members has served on an Altar Guild for 30 years and several others for 15 and 21 year spans. They also expressed their joy in sharing the ministry with their fellow members as they work in teams of two each Saturday. Everyone enthusias-

tically agreed that they receive a special calmness, humility, and intimacy with God as they prepare the altar.

The Altar Guild falls under the Vestry ministry of Connie Kendrick and includes the following hardworking ladies: Mary Brittain, Mary Everson, De Fehrenbach, Carol Fraize, Jean Hancock, Georgia Irby-Massie,

Barbara Johnson, Barbara Laroche, Lucy Purse, Ruth Rowland, Nancy Snyder, Anne Stone, Janice Wagner, and Marie Wilkinson. Recently they welcomed Mary Teale into the group. With the addition of the second sanctuary, they are actively seeking additional volunteers.

Next time you greet one of our Altar Guild ladies, express your appreciation for their "under the radar" devotion to their guild's mission and remember their work when you experience the calmness and beauty of the Episcopal liturgy. Warmest thanks, ladies of the Altar Guild, for all that you do!

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

Some Insights From the Treasurer

Fred Boelt, Treasurer

Let me tell you a little bit about our growing pains. Speaking as your treasurer, allow me to point out some of our ever-increasing needs at Hickory Neck. Just as a family grows and expenses rise, so do the needs of a church. Our membership approaches 600 members, which is great. That is our

comparisons shown in the box below.

And not to be forgotten, the 2007 budget will carry a line item for our new \$500,000 mortgage with monthly payments of \$4,200 to come from the operating budget. This will add another \$50,400 to the bottom line. The budget process

	<u>2005 Actual</u>	<u>2006 Estimate</u>	<u>2007 Proposed</u>
Utilities	8,294	14,530	20,000+
Insurance	3,838	5,085	6,800
Christian Formation	2,919	4,900	6,000
Staff and Benefits	172,628	220,000	*

* It should be pointed out here that until July 2005, we had a staff that consisted of the rector and the administrative assistant. We have since added an associate rector, organist and choirmaster, and a part-time sexton. The budgeting process for staff is not yet completed, but suffice it to say that cost of living, merit, hours and cost of benefits will increase this line item significantly.

mission. But to meet this mission, we have to provide adequate staff and facilities to offer a variety of worship experiences and programs. We now have three buildings and a 12.5 acre campus to maintain. Considering that we had two buildings in 2005 and three buildings for half of 2006, I offer the

is underway where the committees turn in their requests for funds for next year and the personnel committee will meet to discuss staff remuneration. The final budget will be approved at the November Vestry meeting and ratified at the annual meeting. We will all need to prayerfully consider our gifts of time, talent and treasure in 2007.

Light of the World (John 8:12; 9:5)

Joan Forrest

The gift was highly treasured. Yet, this unique vase was being continually moved from place to place in our home because it just never seemed to aesthetically fit anywhere. Treasured

by the fact that it refreshed fond memories and was an irreplaceable, one-of-a-kind, hand-blown glass ewer, didn't alter its rather dull outer appearance. It stood modestly, frosted with a dull murky-blue soapy finish on the outside and looking deceptively ordinary... until one peered within. The brilliance of the interior came as quite a surprise. Swirls of much defined luminous cobalt blue danced against a

stilled, white background to create unique displays of dazzling artistry. It seemed a waste to hide such beauty. To fill the vase with flowers would only further obscure any chance of glimpsing the interior magnificence of the vessel. It was left unfilled and eventually took residence on a closet shelf....until recently.

While gazing at a particularly pleasing hue of azure in a stained glass cross above the kitchen window, I remembered the colorful interior brilliance of that vase. The colors in the cross just might compliment that sad urn. Once again it was transported from the closet shelf to sit on the window ledge beneath the cross. Not much change. Still appearing quite dull, I was ready to give up on ever being able to easily glimpse the interior beauty of that gift. Then, that defeated attitude unexpectedly changed. Strong, warm rays of afternoon sun streamed through that dull glass vessel and the hidden brilliance from inside suddenly shown forth in radiant splendor. It seemed to have been turned inside out as the dull exterior was suddenly transformed by the light.

Life's lessons most often appear in the ordinary and with time, much more is gleaned than from just that first casual glimpse. "Light of the World" I thought, marveling at the transformation presented so simply yet so mightily there at the kitchen window. It seems effortless to affirm the power of the Light to dispel darkness and expose error to present Truth. Yet even more was revealed. The vase is now a reminder that the self-imposed limits of human vision often fail to see beyond the surface ... A reminder that all on our path must be held up and viewed in the Light of Christ

to even catch the smallest glimpse of its truth, beauty, and its significance. Open the eyes of every heart, Lord, to behold the awe of your Majesty and the Light of your truth. Amen.

October Celebrations



Birthdays

- 4 - Elizabeth Gay
- 4 - McKenzie Gay
- 5 - Bob Harcourt
- 6 - Christine Barnes
- 7 - Penny Orth
- 8 - John Greenman
- 8 - Joanna Parsons
- 11 - Mary Teale
- 15 - Karen Dutro
- 16 - Ray Laroche
- 17 - Linda Becker
- 17 - Sue Dugan
- 17 - Abigail Best
- 18 - Donna Dodd
- 19 - Tina Sinclair
- 19 - Roland Todd
- 22 - Linda Wever
- 22 - Alexandria Kelly
- 22 - Richard Carter
- 26 - Leslie Henderson
- 27 - Lynn Geddy
- 27 - Chris Benham
- 28 - Anna Stone
- 28 - JuJu McCabe
- 30 - Randy Tanner
- 30 - Dave Goff
- 30 - Ron Houser

- 31 - Jean Hancock
- 31 - Joan Forrest
- 31 - Rachael Harcourt

Anniversaries

- 13 - Janice & Len Wagner
- 21 - Cheryl & Mayes Mathews

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.



Heartfelt gratitude to **Nancy Aschiero**, skilled seamstress for Hickory Neck. The floor length, full, green altar cloth in the New Chapel is a product of her talent and hard work. It is also reversible to accommodate other frontal cloths. This is the latest of Nancy's sewing contributions to us. She also made the Butterfly and Town of Bethlehem cloths often used in the Historic Chapel. Thank you for your

gifts of beautiful handiwork to Hickory Neck!



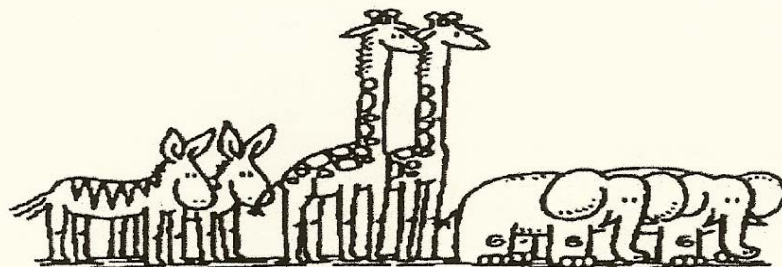
Youth Corner

YES! (Youth Service Ministry) is up and running again this year. Our first ReachOut Day will be on Saturday, October 21st. We will be preparing and serving lunch at St. Paul's soup kitchen in Newport News.



We will meet at Hickory Neck at 8:30 a.m. and should be back by 1:30 p.m. at the latest. If anyone is available to be a driver, please call Karen Dutro at 566-8561 or e-mail her at jolly64@cox.net.

Thanks to everyone who donated school supplies during our recent School Supply Drive for low-income families in James City County.



Blessing of the Animals

9:00 a.m. Service, October 1, 2006

The Rainy Season

The Reverend Lauren R. Stanley

RENK, Sudan – It's the rainy season here in Sudan, a season lived in enough humidity to make you uncomfortable, enough mildew to make you sneeze and enough mud to make you go crazy. We need these rains; they are what make our crops grow. And with only one growing season this far north in South Sudan, anything that helps us raise enough *dura* -- a sorghum-type grain -- is welcomed and blessed. But the rain here is not quite like any other rain I've ever experienced. For one, it is cold, which is surprising in a land where the temperatures routinely are in the 90s, and where temperatures over 100 elicit only the mild comment, "It's hot, today, yes?" I had thought the rain here would be warm, the way it is in Florida, where I lived for many years, or in Kenya, where I lived 20 years ago; however, the rain here is *not* warm -- it's downright cold, almost to the point of being painfully so. For another, the normal rainstorm here -- which usually occurs every three to four days -- is violent. It often is accompanied by high, powerful winds that force the rain sideways and tear at houses and fences. Although the wind is nowhere near hurricane strength, the results often are the same: buildings blown over, fences torn asunder, roofs peeled off. When these storms hit, they leave huge puddles -- no, *lakes* -- of water behind. The ground here is called

cracking clay, which means it takes time for the water to be absorbed into the soil. Streets -- none of which are paved -- become flowing streams. And when the water finally is absorbed, what's left behind is mud -- blackish-brown, clingy and so slippery that it's like walking on ice.

Even as I write this, another storm has hit, coming seemingly out of nowhere, with no warning this time. Water is pouring into both the classroom where I teach and the library in which my office is located in the Renk Bible College, streaming under the doors and windows, leaving my little friend Madjur to fight a losing battle once again against this latest invasion.

But this storm is nothing compared to one we had recently, one that set the standard for what Sudanese rainstorms are really like. A few hundred of us were gathered in the middle of Renk town to celebrate the transfer of command for the local contingent of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA). The commander who had brought the troops here earlier in the year is leaving us, moving on to a new job; the commander who replaces him has just arrived. It is our custom here to celebrate such transfers of power, particularly ones concerning the SPLA. So some colorful tarps were erected in the middle of one of the streets (street parties here are quite common and do not seem to need police permits). Chairs were brought from all over town, including from churches. The women began cooking in the morn-

ing so as to feed everyone after the celebration ended. When the celebration began, there were few clouds in the sky. By the time the prayers and Scripture readings were done, the sky had darkened, threateningly so, and the temperature had dropped, perhaps 15 degrees within 15 minutes. Before the sermon could begin, the wind erupted out of nowhere, blowing hard from the south, gathering up dirt and loose bits of garbage, hurling both right into our gathering. Most of us covered up as best we could to keep the dirt out of our eyes.

But the celebration continued ...until the skies opened up and the rain began ... not to fall, *per se*, but to be *hurled* at us almost horizontally. The tarps, tied up on tall metal poles, first tried to twist loose, and then began to fill with water. The power from the generator went out, and then the rain's noise was so great that everything came to a halt. Of course, with the wind blowing and the rain driving at us, there was nowhere to go. So we simply stood there under the dripping tarps and waited. I was the only one there with an umbrella; when people asked how I had thought to bring it along, I simply replied, "It *is* the rainy season here," at which point they all laughed. The rest of the folks had nothing to protect them from this downpour, so they picked up their seat cushions and held them over their heads, forming a sea of bobbing furniture parts. The water flowing through the street rose almost to our ankles, carrying more mud and garbage with it, and the rain poured down from above, des-

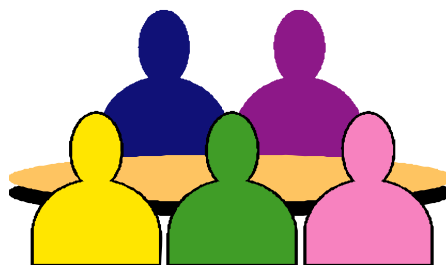
pite the presence of the tarps, making it was easy to think of the airline safety advice: "Seat cushions may be used as flotation devices."

As we all stood huddled together – three adults and one small child sharing my umbrella – we began to sing hymns; hymns that the Dinka people have known for years; hymns about God's blessings and their hard lives; hymns begging for peace; and one old-time favorite from the English hymnal, "O Happy Day." Women ululated and all of us laughed, rejoicing even in our cold, wet misery. In the midst of this flood, the two military commanders, along with the local assistant commissioner, sat quietly in their chairs, apparently not even being struck by the rain dripping from the tarps. While the rest of us got wet, they somehow managed to stay dry. During a short lessening of rainfall, we heard women coming down the street, dancing and chanting. A little rain wasn't going to stop them from celebrating. Dozens of young men left the semi-shelter of the dripping tarps and joined them, dancing in lines up and down the street, then standing in place for another kind of dance that involves a lot of jumping straight up and down. Whenever the hard rain resumed, they all rushed under the tarps, laughing and celebrating. Whenever the rain lessened, out they went again.

And so we stood, singing, laughing, getting soaked, and knowing that this storm, which was making most of us miserable, was also flooding our homes and our streets, as well as knocking down homes and fences and tearing roofs asunder. (When I arrived home a few hours later, I found 2 inches of standing water on the floor and a soaked bed, among other belongings.) But

through it all, no one complained. This rain, we all knew, was a blessing, provided the needed moisture for our crops to grow, meaning that come the winter, we all might have enough to eat. Besides, we knew, this is the rainy season in Sudan. X X X

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



Vestry Highlights

Phyllis Faas, Recorder

On September 12th, the Vestry met for a lengthy but productive session. Bert Geddy informed Vestry members that Williamsburg Health Association will provide training for up to eight people in the use of an Automated Defibrillation Device. The cost will be \$1300.00 and our Men's Breakfast Group has generously offered to raise funds for the purchase of this life-saving device. Also on hand were Bill Forloine and Mayes Mathews with plans for our annual Fall Stewardship program which will take place during the month of October and culminate in a celebration that promises to be memorable. The theme will be "In The Light of Grace" to reflect upon the spiritual aspect of serving our Lord Jesus Christ with our time, talent and

monetary gifts. Ed Godshall was present as well, with a detailed report on the necessity for repairs to the Tracker Organ in our new chapel. As most of us remember, this instrument was a generous gift from Old Donation Episcopal Church so the cost of repairing and regulating (see minutes for details) is minuscule compared to what we would have to pay for a used instrument of this type. Katrina Lukovsky presented a report on her Newcomers Ministry and Bill Teale and Chuck Jundt reported on their Outreach Ministry including a detailed plan of our upcoming annual Fall Festival.

Regrettably, this was my last Vestry meeting as Recorder. I announced to the Vestry that because I am among other things, beginning the first year of EFM, I feel that I will not have the time needed to serve in the ministry of Vestry Recorder. I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation to each of our dedicated Vestry members for the diligent work they are performing. I leave with the knowledge that this vestry is centered in Christ, that the love in this group is amazing, that not only are these people committed to the best interests of our congregation and clergy but to our purpose in bringing others to Jesus Christ. We are Hickory Neck!

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



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



Nugget Notes

Hickory Neck is interested in finding signers for the deaf. Our hope is to have one service a Sunday with a signer. If anyone would be interested in this volunteer ministry, please notify **Father Michael** or the church office. What a wonderful way to enhance our ministry to the community of the faithful.

At our Annual Parish Meeting on November 19th, we will be electing four new Vestry members for the 2007-2009 term and four delegates to represent Hickory Neck at the 2008 Diocesan Council meeting. Nomination forms are available at the Parish Office for all those interested in being a candidate for these offices. Delegates to Council must be voting members of the Parish as outlined in section 5.2 of the Bylaws, and Vestry members must meet the qualifications outlined in section 6.2 of the Bylaws. The Bylaws are available on the Hickory Neck web page, www.hickoryneck.org/vestry.

On Saturday, October 21st, from 9:30 – 11:00 a.m., Cheryl Pharr, M. Ed., will be leading a grief and bereavement seminar here at Hickory Neck Church. Although we feel and experience grief differently, we also share many com-

mon responses. This seminar will focus on those shared experiences and shared patterns of grief, and will help not only those who are currently mourning the loss of a loved one, but also those who comfort them and walk with them. Ms. Pharr has encouraged us to submit questions in advance. If you would like to do so, please e-mail **Pastor Ann** at adieterle@hickoryneck.org so that she can forward them.

Greeters are needed for the 9:00 a.m. service. Duties include arriving at the church fifteen minutes before the service, standing in the front of the church, and saying hello to people entering for worship. This is a great way to meet other parishioners as well as welcoming first time visitors to make them feel comfortable in the church. The rotation is at a maximum of one time per month. If you feel you would be interested in this valuable ministry, please call **Katrina**

Luksovsky at 741-2478 or e-mail her at kluksovsky@yahoo.com.

A New Member Orientation will be held Sunday, November 5th, from 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. in the Parish House. If you have joined the church or are interested in joining the church, this session will be an excellent opportunity to learn more about many of the ministries available. For more information and to RSVP please contact **Katrina Luksovsky** at 741-2478.

There will be a flower workshop held Saturday October 21st from 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Basic arranging will be covered as well as learning to interpret the lessons or gospel to the arrangement. Using "roadsidia" (flowers found on the road side) will also be covered. Everyone is welcome. Please e-mail **Barbara Laroche** at BMLa-roche@aol.com or call the church office if you wish to attend.

NUGGETS STAFF

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November Deadline - October 15th