



Hickory Neck Nuggets

Hickory Neck Parish Episcopal Church

September 2006

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"New Staff and an Intern Coming on Board Soon"

The Reverend Michael L. Delk



Once again, Hickory Neck has been honored by the Diocese with an Ordination Exploration Program (OEP) Intern. Ms. Julia Messer recently graduated from Mary Baldwin College with a Bachelor's degree in Religion and a minor in Asian Studies. She also just completed a summer serving as a Chaplain at Camp Kanuga in North Carolina, and has extensive ministry experience as an intern and as a member of Epiphany, Danville. Julia also enjoys outdoor activities, such as skiing, hiking, swimming, and soccer, and has worked as an official FIFA soccer referee for the past six years.

She will be serving 12 -15 hours per week throughout her twelve-week stay with us, beginning in mid-September. Her duties will include preaching a few times and helping lead worship as a lector and lay chalice bearer, as well as participation in a variety of other ministries to be determined by Julia and her principle mentor, the Reverend Ann



Dieterle. Julia hopes to enter seminary soon and eventually be ordained to the priesthood, but for now, she's "excited and thrilled about starting my

internship and meeting you all!"

This will be the second time in the last three years that Hickory Neck has hosted an intern. In the fall of 2004, Megan Castellan spent twelve-weeks with us. She will begin her second, or Middler, of three years at The General Theological Seminary in Manhattan in a few weeks.

OEP Internships are designed to provide the intern with a ministry experience different from their home parishes. Our job will be to structure an environment for Julia that is conducive to vocational reflection. I am confident that everyone will eagerly welcome Julia, just as we do everyone else.

Julia's may not be the only new face taking up leadership responsibilities at Hickory Neck this fall. In its August meeting, the Vestry endorsed the decision of the Executive Board to create a position for a 15-hour per

week Sexton. A sexton can function in a variety of ways, but the person who accepts this position will be in charge of cleaning our facilities, arranging furniture for the parish events, and doing minor repairs and touch-ups. The funds for this position will come from the existing cleaning contract line item in the budget. A recently revised quote from our cleaning services firm - a quote which naturally includes our new chapel for the first time - was in excess of \$10,000. So the Vestry felt that the best economy would be had from concluding our cleaning contract and having the work done in-house instead by a part-time employee.

Within days of advertising this position, we found Mr. Terry Johnson of Barhamsville. We'll share more about him in a subsequent edition of *Nuggets*. By the time you read this, he will have already started work here.

The Vestry also approved funding for a 15-hour per week Administrative Assistant position, which will be occupied by Gini Campbell until December 31st. As you may remember, Gini was accepted by Union Theological Seminary in Richmond on full scholarship, and she is working her way toward ordination in the Presbyterian Church. Because of her class schedule, Gini will need to reduce her current workload from 30 to 15 hours each week, starting in September. Since Gini is vacating her current 30-hour per week position, we will seek someone to succeed her in that post.

Originally, we had planned to hire someone at fifteen hours per week, to supplement the hours Gini would no longer be able to work, in hopes that said individual would be willing to increase to thirty hours per week in January 2007, when Gini's seminary schedule will force her to leave the staff. However, the Vestry - upon recommendation by the Personnel Committee - decided it would be more practical to find a 30-hour per week Administrative Assistant, rather than to attempt to find one who would start at the lower workload, then overnight on January 1st double his/her hours. This shift will only cost approximately \$1,800 more than had already been budgeted for 2006, and it will broaden our applicant pool while simultaneously providing our new Administrative Assistant a better opportunity to "apprentice" under Gini.

So keep your eyes open for our new OEP intern in mid-September and our new Sexton. Hopefully, we'll be able to introduce you to our new Administrative Assistant soon. This is an exciting time for Hickory Neck. I encourage you to join in the joy by helping us welcome our new intern and staff members.

What Did Jesus Think Of Giving?

Bill Forloine Stewardship Chairman

Most of us who have been Christians for a number of years have heard about stewardship on many occasions. In fact, every year during the Stewardship Season, we are asked to complete our pledge cards.

- How do we feel during the Stewardship Season?

- How do we feel when the church talks about money?

- Is our faith supposed to be separate from our finances?

- *Isn't belief, prayer and love more important than a gift?*

Look at the revealing count of the New Testament words:

- Believe and Believing - 275 times

- Pray and Praying - 371 times

- Love, Loves, and Loving - 714 times

- Give and Giving - 2,162 times

Jesus knew that our treasures and our hearts are inseparably linked. For Him, talking about treasure was to reach more completely for people's hearts. What did he say in Matthew 6:19-21?

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven... For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

The amount of a gift is not the measure of stewardship. Not everyone has the resources to make a million dollar gift, but everyone can make a sacrificial gift, in proportion to their resources, which models the kind of commitment that would honor and worship God.

The Stewardship Season (the month of October) can become one of the holiest times during our spiritual journey in that we are able to make a statement of our faith. This is a time when we both "Talk the Talk and Walk the Walk." We are able to let go of our treasure and let God fill the void. When we explore stewardship, we are able to explore ourselves and develop a stronger relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.



Spotlight on “New Members”

Teri Christin



*“I shall be telling this with a sigh.
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood,
and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the differ-
ence.”*

My husband Michael Peter Christin (Mike), I don’t mind saying, is one of the most fascinating men I’ve ever known. His life journey, which I have been blessed to join, has often consisted of choosing a road less traveled. We have one incredibly handsome, intelligent, kind son, Michael, Jr. who is now 22 years old. Michael Jr. lives and works in Virginia Beach, and is taking the slow, scenic path to college graduation.

Mike was raised in a large extended Irish Catholic family in South Bend, Indiana. He was the third son of Dr. Robert and Dorothy Christin; one of 8 boys and 2 girls. His father spent a number of years there earning a Ph.D. and teaching American Literature at Notre Dame. The big

family (including grandparents and at times, cousins) moved a few times before Bob, retired as Vice President of Pace University. Dot (God rest her soul) attended the school of life and majored in raising adventurous children.

Their household was filled with laughter, rough housing, sports and a large measure of Catholicism, seasoned with books and literature, visiting writers, artists and scholars. This rich environment influenced Mike as a young man when he chose Philosophy as his major in college. Following college graduation, he worked briefly in child welfare before deciding he needed more excitement. So he and one of his brothers promptly went down to the local recruiter’s office and joined the Navy.

Finding regular Navy not exciting enough, Mike completed training and joined SEAL team II, stationed at Little Creek, Virginia. We were introduced in 1979, by a mutual friend. I was completing college with plans for graduate school. I definitely felt something shift the night we met as we sat there together and talked for hours completely unaware of the time passing. He was safely out of SEAL team before we married about a year later. From philosophy to child welfare and then SEAL team, Mike unpredictably headed to The American Graduate School of International Management (Thunderbird)

in Glendale, Arizona.

After graduation, Mike’s career in commercial banking took us to California and then to New York, where our son was born. But before Michael turned two years old, we relocated to Chesapeake, Virginia where Mike took a position as a commercial loan officer with Sovran Bank. We attended a “new comer” class and eventually joined St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Great Bridge. We were both confirmed by Bishop Frank Vest.

Then one day, out of the blue, we got a phone call. It was an old buddy of Mike’s from his SEAL team days of world traveling. And before we knew it, we were on a plane heading for a new adventure in Caracas, Venezuela. Mike worked for *Arturo’s*, a restaurant company; Michael attended an international school; and I took Spanish lessons and got involved in the charitable work of the Association of University Women. This experience proved to be a turning point for me, completely altering my view of the world and my place in it. We joined St. Mary’s Anglican Church, which was an important link for us to home and to the English speaking population. We traveled the countryside soaking in the

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culture for about two years; right through a failed military coup by Hugo Chavez, which ultimately did bring down the Perez administration.

Mike was never completely happy in the business world, although he was fairly successful in it. On the weekends he spent his time skydiving focusing a lot of his energy on learning to videotape skydivers. He finally left banking and shifted his career to economic development with the state of Virginia and City of Richmond, traveling extensively through South America promoting trade with Virginia, and the development of small businesses. It was during this time we moved to Toano. Michael attended Norge, Toano Middle and Lafayette High School. By this time, I was actively working in the nonprofit arena as an advocate for young children. We visited many churches in the area never finding the right fit. This was a difficult time for us. A childhood friend of Mike's from South Bend tragically lost his son in an accident and another close friend died skydiving and then we lost Mike's mother unexpectedly.

About five years ago, Mike accepted the position of Executive Director, at The Healing Place in Richmond, a long term recovery program for homeless addicts. This highly successful program houses close to 200 men with future plans to add a center for women. It was a long struggle to gain neighborhood, local government and business support. But they opened in March 2005, and filled within two months. Lis-

tening to the stories some of these men have to tell, it's easy to see why it has become Mike's passion and I believe he is doing exactly what God was preparing him for all along. I now work as director of development at Hospice House and Support Care of Williamsburg. (That's another story!)

It truly wasn't until I visited Hickory Neck one Sunday about two years ago and met Father Michael Delk that I felt we had finally arrived "home".

It's hard to know what lays ahead for any of us and it's understandable to feel anxious about the unknown. But I have learned that there is a greater power at work in our lives that will lead all of us if we are only willing to be quiet and listen and leave behind our fears of taking the road least traveled.

Recently, I offered to help write articles for the newsletter with a focus on "newcomers" to Hickory Neck. It is my hope that this type of introduction will help ease the transition time for new members. If you have suggestions or would like to have your own family featured here, please just send me an email: tchristin@cox.net.



Invite a Neighbor to Church

We Are What We Were When

Mayes Mathews Capital Campaign Follow Up Coordinator

Every now and then someone mentions to me that we have a mistake in the figures that we are reporting every Sunday in the bulletin announcements. After they turn on the green banker's lamp, put on the eyeshade, slip the sleeve garters up even higher, and sharpen their red pencils; they tell me that, "if you subtract the Pledges to Date from the Building Cost, you do not get the amount shown as the projected Loan Amount on the report." I tried it and they are right. But they are also wrong.

In order to explain this difference I am reminded that, a few years ago, Harvard University Press published an article by Donna Glabaccia that explored the idea that, "We Are What We Eat". She felt that food was one of the things that lead us to who we are as far as culture is concerned. Her big idea was that ethnic mingling and borrowing make up the direction of the American culture.

In a sense that is how Hickory Neck Church has gotten to where it is today - through a series of mingling and borrowing sequences that has resulted in who and where we are today. The first round was an expansion of the Parish House. Additional classroom and administrative space was becoming a necessity as growth pushed the walls to capacity. A capital campaign and mortgage was required to fund that much needed expansion. Then a

few years ago the second round presented an opportunity through the purchase of five acres of land, concurrent with a gift of an additional five acres. This presented an opportunity and challenge that could not be ignored. If we had not made that purchase, our property would have ended at the edge of our new parking lot. We could have had a warehouse right next to our church and would have had no opportunity to expand our campus later. Again, this arrangement required that we acquire yet another additional loan. During the third round, as we negotiated loan terms for our new chapel, it was apparent that the best deal would let us roll the balances of the existing other two loans into the loan for the new chapel. And that is the arrangement the vestry authorized the finance committee to pursue.

So we are what we were when. The reported loan amount represents the result of a mingling of different borrowing instruments used over time. The projected Loan Amount shown is the current projected amount we will face when the dust settles. So, if you have made a commitment to the Capital Campaign Building Fund, keep that commitment. We are counting on you. If, for some reason, you will not be able to meet the commitment; please let us know. We will need to lower our projections accordingly. But if you are new to Hickory Neck Church, you may still become a part of those who have made their own sacrificial contribution. We all welcome you and invite you to make a commitment and join all of us in our exciting effort.

NOTE: You may contact Gini at 566-0276 or Mayes at 566-0928 to participate in the Capital Campaign.

A Clown Thank-You



Wednesday – 09 August 2006

To the Members of Hickory Neck Church:

Please accept my personal thanks and those of Kolonial Klowns for once again hosting the Blessing of the Clowns. So many clowns that attend year after year feel that the Blessing is the highlight of their Clown Week activities.

I received numerous thank-you's from members of the congregation for the clowns being at Hickory Neck. As we were setting up the refreshments, I was approached by a Parishioner that, not only thanked us (clowns) for attending the worship service, but added, "You belong here." Few from our Alley are actual members; however, we feel like we are a part of the Hickory Neck family.

We counted 32 clowns – both in plain clothes and make up – in attendance. We had clowns from Richmond, Virginia Beach, Newport News, and (I believe the one that drove the furthest distance), a clown from Fairfax.

We look forward to returning the first Sunday of August 2007 and will be in touch in the May/June time frame to finalize the plans for the 7th Annual Blessing of the Clowns.

Sincerely,

Ann TUTTLES Sanders
Secretary, Kolonial Klowns of Williamsburg – Alley #357

A Clarification on My Fall Class

The Reverend Michael L. Delk

To reduce any possible intimidation or disappointment surrounding my fall course, allow me to explain a little better what we'll be talking about in "Artificial Intelligence, Genetics, and Christian Theology." We will not be learning in detail about the science of artificial intelligence or genetics. I am neither a physicist nor a geneticist, and you needn't be one either to understand the material and participate in discussion. People who are expert in these areas are welcome to add their more refined insights.

I will be presenting information I've learned – rudimentary yet authentic – about the potential advances that may be made over the next ten to fifty years in these fascinating areas of technology. Primarily, however, we will be discussing what these technological advances may mean for our Christian faith.

For instance, let's presume that someday scientists develop a genuine artificial intelligence, one that mimics our own in every conceivable way. Suppose they embody that super-computer into a humanoid robotic mechanism. What does this say about human beings? What makes us unique anymore? Can these cybernetic creatures be said to have souls? If not, then what could we identify about ourselves that is distinctly soulful?

Likewise, with genetic engineering, once we begin tinkering with certain biological outcomes, how does this impact our relationship with God the Creator? Do we not at that point possess the same power as God, to manipulate the very building blocks of human life?

This is a class about the theological implications of technological developments. It is not meant to be an exhaustive survey of the technologies themselves, although we will spend some time learning about the current discoveries and the trajectory those discoveries point toward.

We will start our time together with a few sessions talking about the basic relationship between science and religion. Are the two compatible in any way, or are they diametrically opposed or irrelevant to each other, as some argue? Then, we will turn to artificial intelligence and genetics. Along the way, I suspect we'll spend some time discussing the theories of evolution and intelligent design, because some authors believe that the latest advances in technology merely represent the next stage in human evolution.

Why bother now, you may ask, with something that may happen so far in the future? Well, the Church seems habitually behind when it comes to responding faithfully to scientific discoveries. Remember how the Roman Catholic Church treated Galileo, or the continuing controversy over evolution vs. the six-day creation of Genesis? Or

consider the continuing insistence by some Christians that Earth and the entire universe is only 6,000 years old, and not the 6 billion or so estimated by the scientific community. It's time that we thought ahead about how we respond to scientific discoveries, so that a reactionary response is not the only one available to us when confronted with new information or new realities.

So I hope you'll join us on Monday nights at 7:00 p.m. or on Thursday mornings at 10:00 a.m., beginning in September, as we explore these intriguing and somewhat disturbing possibilities, and the impact they may have on our own Christian faith and that of our children and grandchildren.

Special Autumn Opportunities for Renewal and Growth

Laurie Brown

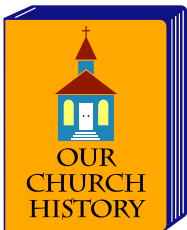
From time to time we all seek inspiration on our spiritual journeys. A Cursillo retreat weekend introduces additional methods to enrich our daily travels with Christ. The 3-day weekend is a time of learning, growth, and renewal. There are two opportunities this Fall for you to attend a retreat weekend at beautiful Chanco on the James. The retreats begin on Thursday evening and end on Sunday evening: October 5-8 is a coed weekend (not just for couples; many singles attend) and November 2-5 is a women's weekend.

Several Hickory Neck parishioners are serving on these two teams, and we already have a couple of candidates, so you'll see familiar faces. You'll also make new friends from all over the diocese. You can pick up an application for the weekends in the Parish House (bulletin board by Ann's office or bulletin board on the stairwell.)

Not interested in a retreat, but curious about the Cursillo method? Ask about weekly Reunion Groups, where parishioners meet to share, draw strength, and encourage each other. Anyone can join a Reunion Group, whether they've attended a retreat weekend or not. There is always an open invitation to the monthly Ultreya, which meets at 6:30 p.m. every 3rd Saturday in the Parish House. This gathering is a good way to learn more about Cursillo or find a Reunion Group.

Hickory Neck Spring

Martha W. McCartney



In colonial Virginia, when books and literacy were relatively rare, the church not only fulfilled parishioners' spiritual needs, it also provided them with intellectual stimulation and an opportunity to socialize. Often, weddings and funerals were a community's principal social events. Virginians typically arrived at church early so that they could congregate in the yard to chat, exchange news, talk business and politics, and gossip with neighbors and friends. They also took advantage of the opportunity to read the public notices that were posted upon the church's doors.



The Sixth Annual Fall Festival



This year's Fall Festival will be held Saturday, September 30. Activities will include:

- A Classic Car show
- Silent Auction
- Home-style cooking Brunswick stew, pork barbecue, and navy bean soup
- Bake sale
- Arts and Crafts sale
- Jams and Jellies sale
- Live music
- Attic Treasures
- Tours of the historic chapel
- Kids' events

Our over-all goals are the same as the last five years:

- To continue our congregational outreach commitment;
- To introduce Hickory Neck Episcopal Church to the Williamsburg community;
- To get to know each other a little better; and
- To have some fun.

Our specific goal is to raise \$10,000 for Angels of Mercy, Faith in Action, Vibrant Life Ministries and other local charities. To reach this goal we will need the enthusiastic support of the entire Hickory Neck congregation. Mark September 30 on your calendars. Please volunteer to help. Together we can reach our goal that will significantly help these and other organizations.



Churchyards were lively, convivial places where men smoked pipes of tobacco and children seized the opportunity to romp and play. Because parishioners often commuted a lengthy distance to church and spent several hours there, most houses of worship were built near a spring of water that served both man and beast. At Hickory Neck, parishioners could partake of a bubbling spring located across the road from the historic church.



Nugget Notes

The Altar Guild is seeking new members for this gentle ministry. If you have an interest, please consider giving some of your time to our parish liturgical life. Anyone within our parish family who would like to serve on this guild, please call
(continued on page 12)

Vacation Bible School Says Thanks!

Paula Simmons

Sixty-seven children from Hickory Neck, Bruton, St. Martin's, and other area churches spent the week of August 7th "Discovering God's Love" at SonTreasure Island Vacation Bible School. The New Chapel and the Parish House were transformed into tropical islands where the children learned that God's love is giving, kind, caring, forgiving, and forever. We were able to share God's love by providing blankets and money to Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters and also provide needed resources to the Virginia Living Museum.

MANY THANKS to the following who gave their time, talent, and treasures: Brink Ambler, Richard Ambler, Susan Axtell, Alison Bailes, Linda Becker, Chauncey Burgazli, Gini Campbell, Karly Casanave, The Tony Casanave Family, Melissa Casheros, Pam Chambers, Anne Chlebos, Chick-fil-A, Leslie Coe, Deanna Credle, Denise Deal, Michael Delk, Kelsey Deppe, Ann Dieterle, De Fehrenbach, Shirley Forde, Claudia Gardner, Dennis Gardner, Carolyn Gaylord, Lynn Geddy, Ed Godshall, Stephen Greenhow, Christine Hanlon, Marilyn Hughes, Peter Hogg, Cindy Jordan, Matt Jordan, Jake Kelly, Merri Kelly, Sandy Key, Laura Kindley, King of Glory Lutheran Church, Barbara Laroche, (continued on page 11)

September Celebrations



Birthdays

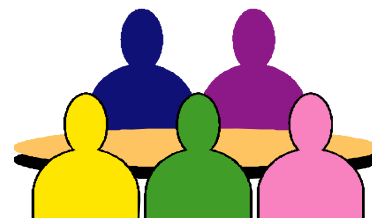
- 1 - Larry Kelley, Sr.
- 2 - Austin Cicero
- 4 - Ed Joyner
- 6 - George Johnson
- 6 - Ben Manning
- 8 - Katrina Luksovsky
- 8 - Barbara Husted
- 9 - Erika Butler
- 9 - Alan Brittle
- 10 - Janice Wagner
- 10 - Joshua Dutro
- 11 - Thomas Burkett
- 11 - Taylor Sutton
- 12 - Kathy Ramsaur
- 13 - Patty Kippis
- 13 - Denise Deal
- 13 - Susan Hagy
- 18 - Kristin Adsit
- 19 - Barbara Johnson
- 19 - Laurie Todd
- 20 - Dave Simmons
- 21 - Bonnie Nealon
- 22 - Katie Burkett
- 22 - Kevin Maddox-Jefferson
- 23 - Brenda Cicero
- 24 - Heather Sinclair
- 25 - Linda Cole
- 26 - Cheryl Mathews
- 26 - Barbara Laroche
- 26 - Emily Corlett
- 27 - Joseph Hagy

- 28 - Len Wagner
- 28 - Stephen Greenhow
- 29 - Rick Garfield

Anniversaries

- 1 - Susan & Samuel Banks
- 1 - Merri & Tom Kelly
- 5 - Barbara & Rich Johnson
- 9 - Jeanne & Bob Williams

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

Phyllis Faas Recorder

The Hickory Neck Vestry met on August 8th 2006. Bob Gay, Coordinator of our Pastoral Care program distributed to vestry members a written plan of action that addresses various needs of our parishioners and describes lay ministries to meet these needs. Bob stressed the fact that we are all ministers and called by God to be the hands and feet of Christ thus in a growing parish such as that of Hickory Neck, it is important that every pastoral need is met whether it is taking Eucharist out to those who cannot make it to Sunday morning services, meals in times of need, prayer, or simply providing company for those alone. The plan in its entirety is included in the August vestry minutes and well worth reading. Father Michael made a

motion to endorse Bob's plan; it was seconded and passed unanimously.

Bill Forloine shared this year's stewardship plan which resulted from the meeting of the Stewardship Committee on August 3, 2006. The objective of this plan is to assist members of Hickory Neck Church in embracing their spiritual journey through personal sharing of time, talent and resources. A Congregational Dinner will be held in our new chapel on November 12th, 2006 to celebrate our stewardship efforts and endeavors. Father Michael expressed appreciation to Bill for his dedicated work on this project.

The new chapel punch list was distributed to vestry members and can be seen in its entirety in the August minutes. Pastor Ann Dieterle reported that Vacation Bible School is going well and that Christian Formation for children begins with registration and orientation on August 27th. The first day of Sunday school will be on September 10th. De Fehrenbach presented vestry members with a current report on Christian Formation and Katrina Luksovsky on the Newcomers Ministry. Both reports can be found in the August vestry minutes.

Under New Business, the vestry voted to confirm an Executive Board action on a new Sexton position which will begin at 15 hours a week but is anticipated to expand beyond 20 hours as needs increase. Additionally, it has been determined that we should have in place an Administrative Assistant working a 30-hour week by early October of 2006 and that a 15-hour a week position be created for Gini who will begin Seminary in the fall. A vote by the vestry on these two proposals passed unanimously. Also, in light of our current financial circumstances, the vestry voted to reduce our Diocesan

pledge temporarily from \$2000.00 to \$1,000.00.

Father Michael concluded the August vestry meeting with prayer.

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

Parish Choir News

Ed Godshall

Parish Choir Rehearsals will begin on Thursday evening September 7, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. and the choir will sing at the 9:00 a.m. service on September 17, 2006. Rehearsals will continue every Thursday night. The choir will sing on Sunday mornings alternating with the Praise Band. The advantages to this schedule are: choir members can worship with the Praise Band every other Sunday or attend the 11:15 a.m. service and hear the Choral Scholars.

The two most common responses I receive when I invite someone to sing in the choir are: "Oh, I can't sing" and "But I can't read music." The fact is that if you can talk, you can sing. It's easier for some folks than for others. Singing is just a different way of using the voice than talking: you have to connect the words together and vary the pitch (change the sound higher or lower a certain amount) according to the instructions incorporated into the written musical score from which you are singing. With regard to reading music, this is something anyone can learn. It's similar to learning a new language, but signs and symbols are involved and not just letters; these are signals which must be recognized by the brain

and interpreted by the voice. An important aspect of singing in a choir is to learn about these things and how to do them. That's the responsibility of the director.

This is your invitation to join the choir! There are no auditions for the Parish Choir; talk to the director and come to the next Thursday night rehearsal. Try us out!

Men's Breakfast Meeting

Bill Forloine



The next Men's Breakfast meeting will be held on Saturday morning, September 16, 2006. The meeting will start at 8:30 a.m. and will be completed by about 10:00 a.m. Our program will be *Jamestown 2007*. This will give everyone an opportunity to hear from the Jamestown 2007 staff what is planned for the 400th Anniversary Celebration. In addition to a great program, you will be able to enjoy a superb breakfast (prepared by none other than our very own Chef Mark Paul), meet the men from all 3 services and find out what will be happening at Hickory Neck over the next 3 months. Please sign-up on the sheet in the narthex of the church or on the email announcement that you should be getting in the near future. We all look forward to seeing you at the "Men's Morning Out."

A Plea for Help from Lauren Stanley

RENK, Sudan – Ever since I became a missionary in Sudan, I have learned to live my life like Blanche DuBois in *A Streetcar Named Desire*: I depend on the kindness of strangers. Not all my family and friends believe this. One asked me, in great confusion: “So, when you need something ... you just ... *ask*?” “Yep,” I said. “I ask, and people help.” He sighed: “You have more faith than I do.” If there’s one thing I’ve learned in my year serving the Episcopal Church in Sudan, it’s been that everything has to be done by faith. Faith - that when prayers are needed, strangers will pray for us. Faith - that when our story needs to be told so that we are not forgotten, strangers will tell the story. Faith - that when money is needed to sustain us, strangers will give it. Without faith that God would provide loving, caring, giving angels to watch over us, the Church in Sudan would not have survived the 21-year civil war. Without faith, churches would not have been built, children would not have been educated, the hungry would not have been fed, and refugees would not have been given sanctuary. Because of faith, communities have been formed, tribal boundaries have been overcome, and the long-sought reconciliation is beginning to take place.

We in South Sudan thought that once peace came, things would be different, that we would not need to spend so much time asking others to

help us simply survive. We thought that with the peace, we would be able to shift our focus instead to thriving. We knew we would still need prayers, still need people to tell our stories, still need financial aid to achieve self-reliance. But we didn’t think we would be in the same place as before, pleading for help whenever a crisis struck. We were wrong.

Just last week, a new crisis arose, one that has us terribly worried throughout the South, and especially in Renk. Last week, we received word from the new Government of South Sudan that contrary to what we had been led to believe, the government would *not* help us with our schools. The new constitution mandates separation of Church and State, which means that our schools are not eligible for any funding at all. Understand that for years in rural South Sudan, the Church provided the bulk of education for our children. With help from strangers across the world, we built schools, hired and trained teachers, and taught thousands of children to read, write, and do arithmetic. Without the Church, those children would have had nothing. The Church ran these schools completely on faith. Because of the war, there was no economy in most of South Sudan. Teachers frequently were not paid for months or even years at a time. The parents of our children, many of whom are refugees, have no money to live on, and can only dream of paying the school fees we need to pay our teachers. Initially, it seemed the Southern government would help pay the teachers until an actual economy was developed, until the parents actually could pay their fees. But now, the latest news has put us right back where we

were before the peace treaty was signed and implemented in 2005: With our hands out, asking in faith, depending on the kindness of strangers to get us through yet another crisis.

If we don’t pay our teachers, the government says, we could lose our schools. They wouldn’t just be shut down and left to molder into ruins. The government could take them over, lock, stock and barrel, leaving the Church with nothing to show for all its hard years of work and dedication. In Renk, where we have five primary schools and one senior secondary school, with more than 1,500 students enrolled, we haven’t been able to pay our teachers since May. To give them their back pay and keep the schools open for the rest of the semester, which ends in December, we need \$95,000. But we have no way of raising that money here. Throughout the war, the Church was clinging by its fingernails to survive. Now, in peace, it seems those fingernails are being pulled out, one by one. The result could be the loss of our schools. For our children, the result could be the loss of an outstanding education.

We know that eventually, an economy will develop in Renk. We know that eventually, our parents will be able to pay their school fees. Eventually, we will have income-generating projects that will give us the money we need to pay all of our teachers. But eventually has not yet arrived, and in the meantime, we are desperate. So once again, we are turning to strangers and asking for help, for both an emergency infusion of cash to keep our school

doors open, and for long-term partners to help us educate the thousands of children who are desperate to learn. We are confident the help will come - because we have faith in the kindness of strangers. (Those interesting in supporting the church schools of the Diocese of Renk may contact the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia in Richmond, 1-800-DIOCESE.) X X X

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

“By This They Will Know That You Are My Disciples, That You Love One Another”

The Reverend Ann Dieterle

Hickory Neck is a loving Church. Not a week goes by when I don't hear testimony about how warm and friendly it feels when you walk through the Church doors. I repeatedly hear tales about someone who needed a helping hand - a meal, a ride to a doctor's appointment, strong hands for heavy lifting - and someone in the Church family provided that help. And when I visit someone in the hospital, I often hear about other Hickory "Neckers" who also dropped by.

Hickory Neck is a loving Church; and that is one of the reasons that we are growing - growing in a way that defies church growth statistics and surprises even us. Growth is a wonderful thing but doesn't come without challenges - and one of those challenges is how to continue providing pastoral care for every member of

our growing family.

To help us meet this challenge, we have designed and Father Michael has approved a pastoral ministry plan that will help us be as certain as possible that we're ministering to everyone in need; and, to allow those who possess them to exercise their great gifts for their particular ministries - whether it be preparing and delivering emergency meals, visiting those who are sick or who are alone, providing helping hands, or serving as a Eucharistic, pastoral or healing minister. And while we are building a framework to help us minister to one another, the care we provide and receive will feel natural and spontaneous.

Everyone who currently serves or feels called to serve in a pastoral ministry is invited to join us in the Parish House on Saturday, September 9th from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. At this meeting, we will review the Pastoral Ministry plan in detail and organize ourselves to expand and enhance our capacity to serve and to minister to one another. If you are unable to attend the meeting, but are still interested in serving in a pastoral ministry, please let Pastor Ann know so that we can make separate arrangements. Anyone who is interested may read the pastoral ministry plan in its entirety. A copy is available in the parish office or on our website. It is a working document - a resource for our pastoral ministers and our church family - and it will grow as we grow and learn to better serve each other and our community.

VBS Thank-You's (continued from page 8)

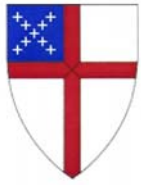
Terri Lensenmayer, Betty Lide, Bonnie Manning, Amanda Meszaros, Candace Moline, Ann

Meyer, Kathryn Parsons, Alex Priest, Kristin Priest, Kathy Ramsaur, Rita's Italian Ice, Thomas Schluszas, Cody Sheldon, Carol Shutt, Paula Simmons, Heather Sinclair, Carol Smith, Alita Small, Toni Small, Mary Jo Smith, Ree Stone, Nell Taylor, Ukrop's, Sallie Wendt, Judy Wetta, Tawnie Wetta, Neil Willard, Abby Wyman, Daniel Zoellner, Marta Zoellner, and to the many anonymous friends who donated craft supplies, decorations, and food.

Choir Receives Matching Grant for Vestments

The Reverend Michael L. Delk

Hickory Neck recently received a \$2,000 matching grant to purchase vestments for our Parish Choir and Choral Scholars. Now that the choirs are up front, instead of being tucked into the back corner as they were in the Historic Chapel, it makes sense for them to be attired in a more dignified and non-distracting way. We've selected a traditional black cassock and surplice combination, very much similar to what you've seen the clergy wear for evensongs. If you would like to help with this matching grant project, please make your check to Hickory Neck with "Choir Vestments" on the memo line. We hope to have our choirs vested as soon as possible.



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

Nugget Notes

(continued from page)

De Fehrenbach at 564-6420 or
Connie Kendrick at 220-4032.

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 an 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.

If you are interested in serving on Sunday mornings as a lector or Lay Chalice Bearer, please contact the church office at 566-0276.

The September Ultreya will feature a covered-dish supper, followed by Evening Prayer in the Historic Chapel. This event is sponsored by the Cursillo community and is open to all. Join the fun and fellowship at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, September 16th in the Parish House. Bring a friend!

The EF (Education First) Foundation for Foreign Study is in need of host families in York County immediately. The foreign exchange students, from all over the world, are thoroughly screened, fully insured, and bring their own spending money. Call today to learn how one student can enrich your family life. Contact Frances McDaniel, EF Coordinator, at 757-564-7006.

Anyone interested in helping with Children's Chapel on Sunday mornings should contact **Jean Hancock** at 566-4544 or email her at lnativ-etexan@verizon.net.

There will be a Newcomers Social, September 17th, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., at the home of **Frank and Betty Somloi**.

Anyone interested in arranging flowers for Sunday services, please contact **Barbara Laroche** at 565-0122 or bmlaroche@aol.com. There will be a formal training session in September, but we would like to start working with anyone interested right away.

Aerobics classes, led by **Denise Deal**, are now meeting Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 6:00 - 6:30 p.m.

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October Deadline - September 15th