



Hickory Neck Nuggets

Hickory Neck Parish Episcopal Church

September 2007

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Diocese Convenes Nominating Committee for New Bishop Search

The Very Reverend Michael L. Delk



On August 17th to 18th, clergy and lay people from across Southern Virginia gathered at our diocesan camp and conference center, Chanco on the James, to organize the search for a new bishop. The group consisted of one lay and one clergy person elected from each of the nine convocations, along with six people appointed by the Standing Committee. This body was divided into two parts: a Nominating Committee and a New Ministry Committee. The latter will handle the election of our new bishop in September 2008, along with the subsequent

consecration. The former will be responsible for providing a slate of candidates for that election.

The Nominating Committee will begin soliciting names from across the nation in December, after the publication of a diocesan profile that articulates our identity and what we want in a new bishop. Once names have been received, a selection process will begin that will include the submission of written material from the candidates, followed by a round of telephone interviews, followed by a round of site visits to the candidates current location, followed by the candidates visiting Southern Virginia for interviews with the entire Nominating Committee. At each stage of this process, the number of candidates will be reduced until a suitable number (probably 4 – 7) is reached, and this group will be the slate for the election.

The election itself will be

held at a Special Diocesan Electoral Council, where each congregation, including Hickory Neck, will be represented by their clergy and lay delegates, who will serve as electors. Each house – clergy and lay – vote separately, and a simple majority must be obtained in both houses on the same ballot before a candidate is declared bishop-elect. The consecration is scheduled for February 14, 2009, and will likely be held in Williamsburg. More information will be released as it becomes available. Look for it here in the *Nuggets*, in our diocesan newsletter *The Jamestown Cross*, and on our newly renovated diocesan website, www.diosova.org.

The Nominating Committee is chaired by Major General (retired) Willard Burlison, Jr. of Bruton Parish. The committee members are The Reverend Alan Hooker (Saint James', Accomac), Ms. Joan Milligan (Hungars Parish, Bridgetown), The Reverend Chris Thompson (Eastern

Shore Chapel, Virginia Beach), The Reverend Robert Davenport (Good Shepherd, Norfolk), Ms. Alice Webley (Grace, Norfolk), The Reverend Michael Spear-Jones (Saint Thomas', Chesapeake), Mr. Tony Robinson (Saint John's, Suffolk), The Very Reverend Marjorie Bevans (Saint Paul's, Petersburg), Dr. Vivian Williamson (Saint Stephen's, Petersburg), Ms. Gratia Hamilton (Redeemer, Midlothian), Ms. Gay Neale (Saint Andrew's, Lawrenceville), The Reverend Susan Grimm (Saint John's and Saint Timothy's Cure), The Reverend John Baldwin (Emmanuel, Virginia Beach), Ms. Lindsay Kirby (Eastern Shore Chapel, Virginia Beach), and yours truly.

The New Ministry committee includes Mrs. Mary Poteet (Old Donation, Virginia Beach), Ms. Marjorie Emerson Lawrence (Saint Augustine's, Newport News), The Reverend Ruth Partlow (Johns Memorial, Farmville), The Reverend Bob Kerner (Saint Andrew's, Lawrenceville), Dr. Julian Hudson (Saint John's, Chase City), Mrs. Toni Hogg (Saint Martin's, Williamsburg), Mr. Nathaniel Elliott (Saint Mark's, Suffolk), and Mr. David Phillips II (Christ & Saint Luke's, Norfolk).

The Reverend Julia Dorsey Loomis is serving as the chaplain for the election process. We ask you to pray for our diocese, and particularly our Nominating and New Ministry Committees, as we strive to discern who God desires to be the 10th Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Virginia.

Men's Breakfast Meeting

Bill Forloine

Hickory Neck Church will have its bi-monthly Men's Breakfast on Saturday, September 15th. It will be held in the Narthex of the New Chapel starting at 8:30 a.m. I am assured by our Breakfast Team that we can expect another great meal. That alone would be worth getting up for, but there is much, much more.

We are in for a real treat with our guest speaker, Colonel (Retired) David Eberly. As an airman, David has flown over 3400 hours with tours in fighter squadrons in the Philippines, Germany, Southwest Asia, and the United States. During Desert Shield and Desert Storm (1990 -1991), he served as the Director of Operations of the Fourth Wing, flying the F-15E in Oman from Saudi Arabia. He participated in the initial air strike into Iraq. On the fourth night of the campaign, he was shot down while flying a Strike Eagle. After evading for three nights, he was eventually captured on the Syrian border and imprisoned in Baghdad. As the senior allied POW, he was finally repatriated on March 5, 1991.

Following his military tour, David has had appearances on Good Morning America, America Tonight with Charles Kuralt, Larry King Live, the CNN special on the anniversary of the conflict, Dateline (2), the History Channel and The Learning Channel.

David is the author of *Faith Beyond Belief* and has spoken to over 17 churches and parochial organiza-

tions, in addition to a vast number of civic and governmental groups. His message has been well received. This will be the occasion to which you should invite your neighbors, friends or relatives. They will be very grateful for your thoughtful hospitality.

We are truly fortunate to have David Eberly as our next Men's Breakfast guest speaker. He is a person with a story to tell and someone who "walks the walk" of his faith. I feel confident that the Men of Hickory Neck and their guests will be in for a rare treat.

Additional Christian Formation Opportunities

These evening Christian Formation opportunities are available in the New Chapel Narthex this fall:

A Brief History of American Evangelicalism

Monday nights from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m., September 17th, 24th, October 1st, 8th and 15th

Evangelicalism is a hot topic in today's religious and political environments. It will be led by Maria Kane. This class will explore its roots and trace its development in America. With a better understanding of this history, we can expand our call to evangelism. A sign-up sheet is posted on the kiosk in the Narthex. Pre-registration is not required but will help when handouts are provided.

Education for Ministry

EFM begins on Wednesday, September 19th at 7 p.m. Please contact the mentor, Daniel Wetta if you are interested.



Spotlight on the Simmons

Doug Smith



Paula and Dave Simmons – a couple who is loving, affable and willing to volunteer for most every project – are relatively new members of Hickory Neck Church.

Paula, a member of the Vestry responsible for Christian Formation, is active in quite a few areas; Children's Chapel, Vacation Bible School, Sunday School teacher, Fall Festival and compilation of the forthcoming Hickory Neck cookbook. She is also one of two parent representatives on the governing board for the pre-school at King of Glory Lutheran Church. Paula was born in Jonesboro, Arkansas, the daughter of a minister of the Presbyterian Church. She resided with her parents in Houston, Texas and Marion, Virginia. After graduating from Salem College, a Moravian College in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, she moved to Richmond,

Virginia and on to Virginia Beach where she worked in interior design and sales for Printer's Alley.

Dave is a Hickory Neck usher, an alternate delegate to the next Diocesan Council meeting and his favorite joy is being apprentice to David Ware in cooking barbeque for the Fall Festival. Growing up in Greer, South Carolina, Dave is a graduate of The Citadel, Charleston, South Carolina, with a civil engineering degree. He worked as an engineer for several consulting firms in Virginia Beach, Northern Virginia and Arizona and then accepted a commission in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration where he worked for five years in Alaska and also had tours of duty in Hawaii, American Samoa and the continental United States. He later worked for the Virginia Department of Transportation out of Mechanicsville, Virginia and is currently manager of information technology for the Virginia Department of Veteran Services, Richmond, Virginia.

Paula and Dave met on a blind date at the Grand Illumination in Williamsburg and celebrated their 9th wedding anniversary last month. They have two very active sons, Trevor 7, and Wilson, 4.

Paula says she likes so many things about Hickory Neck, feeling part of a church that is like family to her. She has gotten involved in a num-

ber of activities and loves the willing volunteerism of so many people. Dave, a bit of a Biblical student himself, says he has attended a number of churches, but at Hickory Neck, "We are among family. I love the history of the church and the many friends whom we feel are family members."

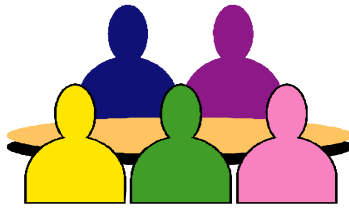
Paula likes to be with her boys, cook (Mary Jo and I enjoyed a great meal with the Simmons' family), and once in a while, she likes to "sit and watch a good movie." She would love to attend more concerts and symphonies. Dave is fascinated with anything dealing with computers, loves reading, particularly non-fiction although an occasional suspense novel is acceptable. He is also a history buff – and is always full of trivia regarding historical dates. God truly sent you to us, Paula and Dave. We are really blessed to have you with us.



September 29, 2007

10:00 a.m.— 3:00 p.m.

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



Vestry Highlights

Eve Butler-Gee Register

The Vestry of Hickory Neck Church was assembled in regular session on Tuesday, August 14, 2007, in the Parish House. The minutes of the July, 2007 Vestry meeting and the Treasurer's report were both approved. The Vestry officially welcomed Father Michael Delk back from his sabbatical. The Junior Warden reported that Vibrant Life Ministries would be looking for locations in James City County, since Charles City County has required them to vacate their site at Camp Miracle by the end of the month. Hickory Neck Church Outreach Committee members, volunteers and Bob Gay are engaged in efforts to assist. The Senior Warden expressed his thanks to Vestry members for advising the Parish office of their regular meeting schedules. The Associate Rector announced: the Fall 2007 Adult Christian Formation schedule; Youth Program Kickoff will be September 9th, with a fellowship, training and planning retreat for youth leaders on September 15; Pastor Ann reported that she has agreed to join the Diocesan Youth Advisory Council; Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Lay Pastoral Visitors have been very busy lately because there

are several persons who are being visited on a long-term basis; and that the first of three identical Phase II "Ministering to the Ministers" retreats for Pastoral Care teams and Sunday School teachers was held on July 26th, with two more to follow on September 6th and 8th. The Rector reported that: he has received and is reviewing the preliminary report from the VAST committee which has been distilling and compiling the feedback from the Parish Visioning Small Group meetings, and he will be meeting with the committee to share his thoughts as they prepare to report to the Vestry in September; Father Michael has been elected by the convocation to serve on the Search Committee for the new Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Virginia; and Father Michael announced that Ed Godshall and Hope Brans are celebrating their first year's anniversary on the staff of Hickory Neck Church. The Vestry received reports from the Christian Formation and Stewardship Committees; the Vestry voted to approve the independent 2006 Hickory Neck Church Financial Review, which will be forwarded to the Diocese; the Vestry voted to approve the allocation of funds for the Hickory Neck Church Choral Scholars program for the Fall 2007 semester; and also voted to certify the Hickory Neck Church delegates and alternate delegates to Diocesan Council, which list will now be officially forwarded to the Diocese. The next regular meeting of the Vestry meeting will be on Tuesday, September 11, 2007.

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.

September Celebrations



Birthdays

- 1 - Larry Kelley
- 2 - Austin Cicero
- 2 - Shawn Paul
- 4 - Ed Joyner
- 6 - George Johnson
- 6 - Richard Johnson
- 6 - Ben Manning
- 8 - Barbara Husted
- 9 - Alan Brittle
- 9 - Erika Butler
- 10 - Joshua Dutro
- 10 - Janice Wagner
- 11 - Thomas Burkett
- 11 - Ann Burnett
- 12 - Kathy Ramsaur
- 13 - Taylor Sutton
- 13 - Denise Deal
- 13 - Patty Kipps
- 18 - Kristina Adsit
- 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
- 25 - Cheryl Mathews
- 26 - Bill Burnett
- 26 - Emily Corlett
- 26 - Barbara Laroche
- 26 - Margie Stout
- 28 - Stephen Greenhow
- 28 - Leonard Wagner

29 - Rick Garfield

Anniversaries

- 1 - Susan & Samuel Banks
- 1 - Merrie & Tom Kelly
- 2 - Joan & Jack Whitla
- 5 - Barbara & Rich Johnson
- 9 - Jeanne & Bob Williams
- 16 - Rebecca & Alan Zoellner

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.

Time for Fall Foyers

Mary Jo Smith

There is a Foyer group to suit you. Jesus bids us to love one another as He loves us, but until we begin to know one another it is difficult to love one another. The Foyer program at Hickory Neck offers many opportunities to do just that. Groups are chosen at random from among those in the parish who have expressed an interest

The groups have been very creative this spring. Daytime groups had a picnic to get organized and the groups since then have met in restaurants after the 11:15 a.m. service for Brunch followed by dessert at one of their homes. One group even took a water taxi ride to a local Marina for lunch.

The very successful Young Family Foyer group welcomes participants with small children. This group meets in the Parish House, usually to have a pot luck meal. Evening Foyer groups meet at the discretion of the host, in a restaurant or a home with the host providing the main dish and others contributing

side dishes. One Foyer group relaxed at the beach for a few days and another group also took a water taxi ride to a local Marina for dinner. The Singles group has been eating in restaurants and then going bowling, coming to game night at Hickory Neck, and going to the movies and other various activities.

The size of a group varies – Daytime, Singles and the Family Foyers are usually larger while the Evening Foyers usually consists of 6-8 people. Look for the sign-up sheet on the kiosk in the New Chapel. For further information contact: Daytime Foyer - Shirley Forde at 757-229-1448 or Louanne Martin at 757-564-1271; Evening Foyer - Betty Somloi at 757-565-2420 or Mary Jo Smith at 757-564-1232; Singles Foyer - Sue Dugan at 757-258-0949 and Family Foyer - Suzi Blanchard at 757-561-4107.



Uncle Sam Wants You!

Linda McGee

Oops, wrong audience....but now that I have your attention, “Uncle” Mark Kintner and “Aunt” Lauris Zeni do need you for the Hickory Neck Church Fall Festival on Saturday, September 29, 2007, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. So do several other Hickory Neck Church members. “Uncle” Chuck Jundt and “Uncle” Steve Snyder need many more wonderful items for the Silent Auction. “Auntie” Mary Jo

Smith and “Auntie” Jennie McCray are looking for those attic treasures hiding in the nooks and crannies of your home, as well as those of relatives and neighbors homes. “Uncle” Bill Forloine needs chopper experts (not motorcycles, but Brunswick stew veggie masters) along with a few stirrers, and “Uncle” Bert Geddy and “Uncle” Paul Casanave are looking for just the right flippers (not swimming but “burgermeisters” and grill hands) to man (or lady) the food preparation center, while keeping the Parish House kitchen spotlessly clean. “Aunt” Paula, of the Simmons kitchen patrol wants your favorite “for sale by owner” dinner/appetizers and baked goods. And not to be forgotten, “Aunt” Terri Lensenmayer will create magical kids’ events, including face painting, horseback riding, petting alpacas, moon bouncing, and arts and crafts projects for youngsters.

Don’t know who these people are? Check with the Fall Festival Facts and Faces on the kiosk in the Narthex or see Lauris, Mark, Father Michael, Pastor Ann or Hope Brans, Hickory Neck Church secretary, hbrans@hickoryneck.org.

Hickory Neck Church: People Helping People! All proceeds from the Fall Festival go to local charities such as The Angels of Mercy Clinic, Vibrant Life Ministries, Williamsburg Faith in Action, to name a few. See you there! Bring friends and family along. It is sure to be a day of delights, treasures, and good fun.

Lecture Series on Tocqueville's Democracy in America

Gay Forloine

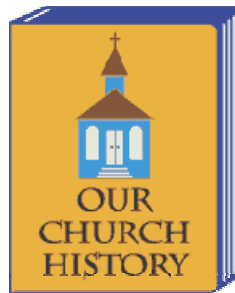
Some people claim that Alexis de Tocqueville wrote the best book ever about democracy and about America. Tocqueville was a young French nobleman living in post-revolutionary France, who believed that America's developing democratic society was further along than any other nation at that time. He came to America in 1831 to learn about democracy and *Democracy in America* was the result of his travels here.

I have purchased the video tapes of William R. Cook, Ph.D, Professor of History at the State University of New York at Genesco and am eager to begin the study of Tocqueville's book. It is my understanding that this book is a useful analytical tool for Americans to use, even in the 21st century, and especially at a time when America is encouraging the adoption of democratic values around the world. Some of the lecture topics include: Democracy and Local Government, Freedom of Speech in Theory and Practice, Political Parties, The American Constitution, Christianity and Democracy, Blacks and Indians, The Tyranny of the Majority, Education and Culture in Democracies, and the Democratic Family.

Anyone who would like to embark on this approximately 12-week journey with me, is invited to attend the initial lecture on Sunday evening, September 23rd (the first day of Autumn) at 7:00 p.m. at the Parish House. The lecture will be an overview of *Democracy in America* and a brief biography on Alexis de Tocqueville. You may want to purchase your own copy of *Democracy in America* in preparation for the course. It is not currently available at Amazon, but I did find paperbacks available for about \$8 at Books a Million (booksamillion.com). If you have any questions, please call me at 565-5050.

Historic Hickory Neck: A Public School

Martha W. McCartney



In 1934, Mrs. Lucy James, who attended school at Hickory Neck from 1893 to 1896 and later returned as principal, said that there was a fireplace in the south wall of the building. According to "old timers," when the school first opened after the Civil War, students sat upon backless wooden benches that were arranged in a semi-circle around the fireplace. Near the center of the north wall was a pulpit that was raised a few feet off the floor. The interior of Hickory Neck School then had plain, white-washed plaster walls and plank floors.

A number of modern improvements

had been made by the 1890s. A stove installed in the old fireplace provided a steady source of warmth. Pupils, who were taught the 3 R's, were provided with wooden desks as well as benches. In one corner of the room was a long shelf upon which they placed their lunch containers, which ranged from tin buckets, shoeboxes, baskets, and paper bags to newspaper bundles. In another corner was a wooden bucket from which they dipped their drinking water, which came from a cool, clear spring across the road. Mrs. James said that during recess, youngsters scampered about the churchyard, playing games such as tag and leap-frog. According to Mrs. James, the big boys sometimes teased the little boys who feared being placed "under the big flat tombstones that were then showing in the yard." Classes were held at Hickory Neck School until September 1908, when a new public school was opened in Toano.

Introducing the Hickory Neck Children's Choir

Terri Lensenmeyer

For years, I sang in my church's youth choir, enjoying friendships, fun, and a closeness to God. I have watched my oldest son work with an amazing choir at the Williamsburg United Methodist Church, and I have often wished for a choir at our home church. I believe the time has come when we will have enough interested youngsters and committed adults to make this happen at Hickory Neck.

I invite any interested child, grades

1-6, to join our Hickory Neck Children's Choir. We will sing one Sunday per month, at the 9:00 a.m. service, and we will rehearse for one hour per week. The rehearsal day and time will be determined based on interest and availability, information that will be collected in a survey to follow later this month. We will sing, pray, and enjoy each other, as we learn some solid choral repertoire, and commune with friends. Remember, there is NO child who can't sing, only one who hasn't learned yet. I hope to see you there.

Help Wanted for the Fall Festival

Thank you to all of the volunteers working hard to prepare for the Fall Festival on September 29th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Plan to join our team if you haven't already done so.

Chuck Jundt and Steve Snyder's wonderful silent auction is divided into three areas: Goods, Services, and Gifts. They need services donated related to your areas of expertise such as volunteering, tutoring, computer aid, window washing, interior decorating, and lawn care. They also need gifts such as tickets to sporting events, concerts, vacation homes, timeshare weeks and golf packages. Are you willing to solicit businesses you patronize for gift certificates (restaurants, merchandise, etc.)? The deadline for solicitations is Sept. 12th. Contact Chuck for more information on how you can help: jundtcj@aol.com or 220-5529.

Paula Simmons and team need your

help to provide "Delicious Delights" and "Future Delights" for their Bake Sale ("Amazin' Grazin") booth. If you can bake for the day of the Festival or provide food items to be purchased and delivered at a later date please let her know. Always popular treats such as cakes, pies, cupcakes, scones, muffins, cookies, brownies, breads, rice krispy treats are needed along with meals, appetizers, and desserts to be provided at a later date. Please wrap or bag food items in clear plastic labeled with name of food, your name, and note if it contains nuts. Please do not contribute items that require refrigeration the day of the festival. Contact Paula: p.m.c.simmons@verizon.net or 564-7998.

Mary Jo Smith and Jennie McCray urge you to clean out and share all of those wonderful items that you don't need or use any more for their Attic Treasures booth. Storage is available in a pod located behind the church or in AAA storage. Contact Mary Jo for the key or if you are willing to help in this area: dpmjsmith@cox.net or 564-1232.

Parish Choir News

Ed Godshall Organist/Choirmaster

The first Parish Choir rehearsal of the fall will be on September 6th at 7:30 p.m. in the New Chapel. New members are welcome; there are no auditions required for membership in the Parish Choir. Being able to carry a tune is the most important prerequisite. It's the director's job to teach everything else a choir member needs to know. The first

rehearsal will be a dessert rehearsal. Please bring a dessert to share with others. We will feast on sugar in the Narthex and catch up on our summer experiences from about 7:30 p.m. to 8.15 p.m. when we will proceed to the nave for singing.

The Parish Choir will sing at the 9:00 a.m. service starting on September 16th. The regular schedule for the Parish Choir rehearsals will be at 7:30 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. every week. We will sing at the 9:00 a.m. service on the first and third Sundays of the month. If a month has five Sundays, the Parish Choir also sings on the fifth Sunday. Sunday morning warm-up rehearsals are held in the Parish House at 8:30 a.m. After the warm up rehearsal, members walk across the parking lot and take their places in the area behind the altar. The choir does not process or wear vestments. Any questions, please contact me in my office at the Parish House.



Nugget Notes

Wanted: Strummers, Tooters, Thumpers and Bangers. That's right, we want you to join the Praise Band at 9:00 a.m. and help round out our sound. You don't have to be Eric Clapton or Keith Richards, just willing to make some music and have some fun. Contact the Church Office for more details, 566.0276 or mdelk@hickoryneck.org.

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The Top Ten Books I Read on Sabbatical

The Very Reverend Michael L. Delk

Among the many things I looked forward to doing on sabbatical, perhaps the most exciting for me was the opportunity to read at length. Instead of plodding through a book 20 pages here and 30 pages there, every other day, until I finally finished, sabbatical offered me the chance to sit down with a volume and read until I was done. In all, I read a couple of dozen books, mainly in the fields of economics, political and social theory, history, philosophy, and theology. Here are my top ten, in order of preference. For more complete reviews, visit www.hickoryneck.org.

1. Robert Fisk, *The Great War for Civilization: The Conquest of the Middle East*

Written by a British newspaper correspondent who has covered the Middle East for the past three decades (based in Beirut), Fisk offers a much deeper perspective on what's happening now in the Middle East by providing a grand review of the region's history over the past century. Fisk provokes some soul-searching questions. The basic theme of the book is that Western powers continue making the same mistakes over and over again in the Middle East, partly from ignorance of history and of the indigenous cultures involved, partly because of the overriding passion of greed and the

desperate attempt to secure precious energy resources.

2. Carl Jung, *Answer to Job*

A stunning application of the insights of depth psychology to God in his relationship with the biblical character Job, this slim yet dense volume deals with God's "shadow" side, addressing God's capriciousness in dealing with Job with the frankness only a non-believer could muster. Jung capably shows how pivotal Job was, not only for the Old Testament, but for the formation of the Judeo-Christian heritage as a whole, particularly the role Job had as a sort of forerunner for the early Christian understanding of the Incarnation, Crucifixion, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

3. J. K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Deadly Hallows* (Book 7)

Yes, I read children's books, especially when they aren't just written for children. No matter what anybody says, Rowling has reeled off a series of seven books that are easily the match for C. S. Lewis' *Chronicles of Narnia*. Though Rowling never intended to produce a magical analogy of the Gospel, as Lewis did, the moral content clearly resonates with Christianity. There is also a hint of the mythological in the Harry Potter series, somewhat similar to J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*.

4. Barbara Brown Taylor, *Leaving Church: A Memoir of Faith*

Several years ago, Taylor left parochial service after 17 years for a teaching position at a local college. This memoir is a wise repository of vocational discernment. It is also a surprisingly honest tale of her struggle with parish ministry and the process that led her out of it and into academia. She shares how leaving her role as a priest and rector actually broadened and deepened her faith. *Leaving Church* is a valuable guide for anyone who is searching for God's purpose in their life.

5. Sudhir Alladi Venkatesh, *Off the Books: The Underground Economy of the Urban Poor*

Venkatesh analyzes the underground economy of a south side Chicago neighborhood, revealing how our economy systemically shuts out the poor, particularly minorities, and how they compensate with remarkable ingenuity and hard work. Perhaps the most engaging aspect of the book is Venkatesh's take on how drug-related gang activity functions within the context of the underground economy. He devotes considerable attention to the role of informal community mediation with gangs, often facilitated through church pastors. Though the book as a whole can be repetitive, these chapters on the law outside the law and the church's work in enforcing it are most worthwhile.

Note: The remaining five books on Father Michael's Top Ten list will appear in the October issue of *Nuggets*.

Adopting a Vibrant Life Ministries Home

Chuck Jundt

Being a Christian is what you *do* after you say *I believe*. Hickory Neck Church has an opportunity to reach out and show our love for those who need our help. As you know, Hickory Neck Church has been helping Vibrant Life Ministries with money and volunteers. Now we have the opportunity for all of us as a congregation to make a meaningful and long lasting contribution to the work of Vibrant Life Ministries.

Last month Vibrant Life Ministries was denied permission by Charles City County to operate transitional housing for the homeless in that county. Working with James City County staff Vibrant Life Ministries is buying four houses to be used as transitional housing. Since the purchase should be complete by the end of August and the move in date will be in early September there is a sense of urgency in preparing these houses to become homes. The desired plan is for Hickory Neck to team with St. Martin's to adopt one of the houses. Adopting the house means providing mentors to meet with the clients for about an hour each week and providing the supplies such as kitchen ware, cleaning equipment, and consumables (paper products, laundry soap, dishwasher detergent, light bulbs). It will be the occupants' responsibility to maintain the house inside and out. These houses are not "fixer upper" type houses. The house up for Hickory Necks' adoption has three bedrooms and two bathrooms with about 1,100 square feet of living

space and will house three people.

A work project to "spruce up" the house would do two things. It would show a church involvement and put on a good face to reassure the neighborhood — both positive steps in integrating the home into the neighborhood. We at Hickory Neck close each service with the admonition, "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord". Here's a way we can fulfill that promise.

Nugget Notes

(continued from page 7)

Gay Forloine sends the following tips from the tellers. Perhaps you have been away on vacation and you want to "catch up" with your pledge to Hickory Neck Church. To make your life easier, rather than writing multiple checks and placing them in separate envelopes, one for each week, you can simply write one check for the total amount and place it in the most current envelope (you can recycle the outdated envelopes). When you insert checks or cash for the general fund into separate envelopes, the tellers take them out, total them up and record the grand total amount. You will save yourself a little time and you will save the tellers a little time too. Don't forget that little memo line on

the checks — it takes mind-reading out of the equation for the tellers and keeps them smiling. By the way, thanks to all of you for writing a separate check when making a contribution to the building fund/capital campaign.

Do you like to cook? Do you like to eat? If you answered "yes" to either of these questions, then you are just the person to share your favorite recipes for the creation of a Hickory Neck Church cookbook. Recipes are now being collected, and submission forms are available in the Parish House and in the New Chapel Narthex. You may request a form via email at cook-book@hickoryneck.org. Submit as many recipes as you want by November 1, 2007, either in the collection box in the Narthex, by mail to the church, or by email at cook-book@hickoryneck.org. Look for future announcements about cookbook titles, artwork, and the many other ways you can become involved in this new project.

The Prayer Shawl Ministry invites all knitters to become a part of our group. After a summer break we will come together again on the first and



Treasurer's Report

(as of 7/31/2007)

YTD Budget Income	\$199,066.56
YTD Actual Income	\$193,159.71
YTD Budget Expenses	\$199,066.56
YTD Actual Expenses	\$200,647.25
Loan Balances	\$609,537.44
(as of 8-1-07)	



Hickory Neck Parish Episcopal Church
8300 Richmond Road
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"Rooted in history and embracing the future, through Christ"

third Wednesdays of each month at noon in the Parish House for prayer, knitting and fellowship beginning September 5th. Bring your lunch, yarn and needles. If you can't come at this time you can still be a part of this ministry by knitting at home. Please join us! This past year 26 members have knitted 32 shawls and lap robes. With blessings from Father Michael and Pastor Ann, twenty-two shawls were given to members of Hickory Neck needing this symbol of a warm embrace, love and prayers. A few shawls have been purchased by members for someone they know outside our church. Shawls and lap robes have been received with great appreciation and gratitude at a time when they are needed the most. Consider sharing your knitting talents to provide these gifts of love from Hickory Neck. Call **Kathy Ramsaur** 565-0263, **Lynn Kelley** 566-1891 or **Gay Forloine** 565-5050 for more information.

Most of you have heard of Cursillo, but some may not know exactly what it is. Cursillo is a Spanish word that means a short course in Christianity. You "make" a Cursillo "weekend," which means you do more than simply attend for a period that extends from Thursday evening to Sunday morning. Cursillo weekends are offered for

women, for men, and sometimes for both men and women. Cursillo has profoundly affected the spiritual lives of many Hickory Neck parishioners and Episcopalians throughout our diocese. This fall, from November 1st through 4th, our diocese is offering a new type of Cursillo weekend — called a concurrent weekend. We expect this to be a watershed event in the rich history of Cursillo in the diocese because it will give both men and women the opportunity to experience Cursillo in the same weekend but in perhaps a more meaningful manner than our previous coed weekends. In concurrent weekends, the instructional activities and opportunities to share responses to the instruction are separate for men and women, while activities such as meals and worship services are done together. If you haven't made a Cursillo, we encourage you to find out more about it by talking to **Father Michael** or one of the many people here at Hickory Neck who have

had the wonderful experience of making a weekend.

Paula Simmons sends a big "Yee-haw" to all those who were involved in Vacation Bible School. Avalanche Ranch was certainly "a wild ride through God's word." Thanks to all the youth and adults who helped and to all the children who participated. What a wonderful week we had!

Confirmation Classes are scheduled for Monday nights from 6:45 – 8:00 p.m., beginning on September 10th and running through October 29th. Confirmation will be on Sunday, November 4th when the Right Reverend John Buchanan visits Hickory Neck. Please contact **Pastor Ann** if you desire to confirm your commitment to your baptismal vows through this sacramental rite.



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October Deadline - September 15th

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