

Hickory Neck Episcopal Church 2008 Ministry Reports

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2008 Outreach Committee Report

PURPOSE: The purpose of the Outreach Committee is to

- Conduct strategic assessments of community needs.
- Select charitable organizations to support based on the committee's assessment of the charity and Hickory Neck's ability to provide the charity with treasure and/or talent.
- To select committee members to be liaisons to the supported charities.

The Outreach Committee was provided \$14,500 from the 2007 Fall Festival to distribute in 2008.

ANGELS OF MERCY (AOM): AOM is a free clinic established in 1997 in Norge to provide services to James City County, New Kent County, Upper York County, and Williamsburg. AOM treats chronically ill and complex patients that require more time and attention than usually provided by other health care providers.

SPIRIT WORKS (SW): SW provides recovery support services-life strategies and recovery coaching, telephone recovery program, recovery action planning, and discovery groups.

HISTORIC TRIANGLE HOUSING, EMPLOYMENT, AND LINKAGES PROJECT (HELP): HELP "mission and purpose is to provide accessible, affordable, timely, and appropriate shelter and services to individuals...who are at-risk of homelessness, who are currently homeless, and/or those who are working on self-sufficiency goals who need additional community support..."

FROM HIS HAND (FHH): FHH consists of several faith-based organizations working in a partnership with support from the Salvation Army to serve approximately 100 meals each Thursday to selected residents of the Grove Community.

WILLIAMSBURG FAITH IN ACTION: Provides non-medical support such as transportation, grocery shopping, visits, house and yard work for those who are homebound or care for the homebound in the Williamsburg area.

FISH: Hickory Neck Church provides food items to this food pantry on a monthly basis.

In addition to the above charities that have direct outreach committee involvement, there are a number of individual outreach ministries conducted by numerous members of this church. The following is a small example of these individual ministries:

- Grove Christian Outreach Center
- Salvation Army Angel Tree
- Relay for Life
- Meals on Wheels
- Kairos Prison Ministry
- Williamsburg Walks the Talk

- African Team Ministries
- Support of Rev Lauren Stanley in the Sudan

Respectfully submitted, Chuck Jundt & Gary Harvey

Children's and Youth Ministries
2008 Annual Report
Submitted by Paula Simmons

Building a strong spiritual foundation for our children is one of the most important things we can do as parents and as a church. To paraphrase a well-known saying, "It takes a church." The children's and youth ministries of HNC provide many opportunities for spiritual growth for our infants, children, and youth.

The **Nursery** is available during the 9:00 a.m. service, Sunday school, and the 11:15 a.m. service each Sunday as well as various events and services throughout the year. There are as many as nine children in the nursery on a Sunday. Linda Becker coordinates the Nursery staff and schedule. The nursery staff includes one paid worker and several volunteers so that at least two people are caring for the infants and toddlers each Sunday. During the parish cleanup day earlier this year, the room was thoroughly cleaned, including toys. Worn and unsafe toys were discarded. New guidelines and safety policies have been and continue to be instituted.

Children's Chapel for ages 3 through 2nd grade continues to meet during the lessons and sermon of the 9:00 service. The children sing, say prayers, and have a lesson each Sunday, with an average attendance of 10 children. Jean Hancock plans and sets up the materials for each Sunday's lesson. Four leaders and four assistants rotate serving this ministry. Also, whichever one of the clergy is not preaching on a given Sunday is attending Children's Chapel. Periodically, they present the lesson. We hope for the children to build a stronger relationship with the clergy as well as experience Children's Chapel as more of a worship time and less of a Sunday school time. The response has been good.

The **Christian Formation Committee** coordinates Sunday school for the children and includes Toni Small (Sunday School Superintendent), Stephanie Delk (Godly Play Materials), De Fehrenbach (Curriculum & Staff), Paula Simmons (Vestry Liaison), and Lauren McDonald (Associate Rector).

The 2007-2008 **Sunday School Recognition** was held Sunday, June 1st during the Sunday school time in the Parish House. We celebrated the year and recognize those involved in Sunday school, Nursery, Children's Chapel, and Youth Group. This coming year, plans are to have Sunday school recognition in the Nave of the New Chapel with the hope that more parishioners will be present to celebrate our youth ministries.

In August, letters were sent to families about **Sunday school** and were followed up with personal phone calls by members of the Christian Formation Committee. Registration for the 2008-2009 year was held August 24. To date, there 28 children, ages 3 through 3rd grade, registered for the four classes.

Sunday school classes began on Sunday, September 7. Twelve parents accepted the invitation to attend the first class their child(ren). Teachers were commissioned that morning at the 9:00 and 11:15 services. Our teachers are: Melissa Casheros, Pam Chambers, Jennifer Lampert, Linda Mathews, Lucy Purse, Carol Shutt, Michael Wilson, and Alan Zoellner. Stephanie Delk, Paula Simmons, and Toni Small substitute when needed.

The preschoolers through second graders are using Godly Play for the fourth year. The story schedule includes stories used each year, stories introduced in 2007-2008, and stories reintroduced from 2006-2007, as well as a few new ones this year. Additional materials for the new stories and replacement materials for worn or missing repeated stories are purchased throughout the year. The third, fourth, and fifth grader class continues using the Episcopal Children's Curriculum, which is built on a three-year rotation cycle.

The first-ever Sunday school family picnic was on Sunday afternoon, September 21. Thirty-eight parents, children, and teachers enjoyed an afternoon of recreation, food, and fellowship.

The joint Episcopal **Vacation Bible School** for Hickory Neck, St. Martin's, and Bruton Parish was held at Bruton Parish Church the week of August 4-8, 9:00 a.m. to noon. Approximately 55 children attended. Two adults and 9 youth participated from HNC. Michael Delk and Lauren McDonald each participated in the clergy rotation for the mornings. The "God's Green Earth" theme was well received, and parents offered many positive comments throughout the week. We will continue with a world/earth theme to some extent this coming summer when VBS is hosted at HNC.

The **children's choir**, directed by Terri Lensenmayer, continued through the spring with 5 children. The children sang 7-8 times throughout the 2007-2008 school year. After surveying many of the potential families, the choir has been suspended until scheduling conflicts decrease and interest increases.

The 2007 **Christmas Pageant** presented *Mary's Treasure Box* on Sunday, December 23 between the 9:00 and the 11:15 services. Children, youth, and adults participated. Plans are now underway for this year's pageant.

The **Youth Group** again supported Relay for Life with the car wash and spaghetti dinner-to-go fundraisers and attended the May event. After the summer break, a kick-off event was held on Sunday, August 17 at 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Between 8 and 14 high school youth currently attend every week. Each week, the group grows closer together as a community over delicious dinners provided by various parishioners and coordinated by Christine Barnes. The youth then play basketball or football or wackyball or cornhole or ultimate Frisbee or cards or board games or their own version of the Olympics. Other activities have included a Bible knowledge quiz, boys against girls, with the boys being victorious, and a trip to Laser Tag in Richmond, the first of many off-site activities the group will do. The group has also broken in a new giant sling-shot and will have a bonfire on November 16th.

Each week, the group also spends some time drawing closer to God. About once a month, they celebrate a Youthcarist, or Youth Eucharist, in the Historic Chapel. It's a spontaneous way of

sharing communion that includes hymns, scripture reading, and prayers. About once a month, they do either Compline or Night Prayers in the Historic Chapel, occasionally led by a member of the youth group. About twice a month, they also engage with one of Jesus' parables, through a process called Participatory Narrative Bible Study, where the youth act out a Gospel parable, as it is being read (and embellished) by an adult leader. This is a great way for the youth to literally get inside one of the parables. Afterwards, we talk about the meaning of the parable.

Both Father Michael and Pastor Lauren have attended almost every session, and they plan to continue doing so. Maria Kane and Pamela Maddox-Jefferson also continue to serve as youth group advisors at the meetings.

As is obvious, much is happening with and for our youngest members. Parishioners who are interested in helping with any of these ministries are encouraged to speak with the priests, the specific ministry coordinator, or the vestry liaison.

Christian Formation for Adults

Not only does Hickory Neck offer educational opportunities for our youth and children, but we also provide many formation experiences for adults.

In 2008 we offered the following classes:

- ❖ Wednesday morning women's Bible study led by Mary Brittain.
- ❖ Education for Ministry led by Daniel Wetta
- ❖ Theological Perspectives on Current Events led by Michael Delk and Ann Dieterle
- ❖ Celtic Spirituality and the Wisdom of the Celtic Saints led by Eve Gee
- ❖ Judaism in the Time of Jesus led by Michael Daise
- ❖ A Christian Citizen: The Gospel and Public Policy
led by Michael Delk and Ann Dieterle
- ❖ A Theology of Creation led by the Most Rev. Bruce Cameron
- ❖ The Book of Jonah led by Michael Delk
- ❖ Jesus' Healing Ministries led by Laurie Brown
- ❖ Paul's Letter to Philemon led by Michael Delk
- ❖ 1st Corinthians led by Michael Delk
- ❖ The Book of Ruth led by Lauren McDonald
- ❖ Jesus and Paul led by Michael Daise
- ❖ The Letter to the Colossians led by Michael Delk
- ❖ Spiritual Gifts Discernment Workshop led by Michael Delk and Lauren McDonald
- ❖ Faith and Health: Exploring the Connection Between our Spiritual Lives
and our Physical Health led by Lauren McDonald (November 23 Adult Forum)
- ❖ The Birth Narratives of Jesus
led by Michael Delk and Lauren McDonald (during Advent)

In addition to Adult classes, we also offered the following formation opportunities:

- ❖ Movie nights to view films and have discussions

- ❖ Centering Prayer Group on Thursday mornings
- ❖ Pilgrimage group that has decided to go to the Holy Land in the spring of 2010
- ❖ Parish Retreat to Camp Chanco

Day Care/ Pre-school Feasibility Study

In 2007 the parish went through a visioning process, and one clear message was a strong desire for outreach to the community. An idea expressed many times during those discussions was a daycare center or a preschool. A committee was formed to explore the need for childcare in the community and the feasibility of HNC fulfilling that need.

Committee: Co-chairs De Fehrenbach and Paula Simmons

Members: Jean Hancock, Stephanie Delk, Joy Tanner

Vestry Members: Bill Teale, Lauris Zeni

Meetings: First meeting February 25 with 10-12 subsequent meetings. Next meeting is scheduled for November 18

Process: The committee members researched the community need by talking to social services and surveying all current daycare and preschool facilities. Research included interviews, emails, tours of facilities, phone calls.

Findings: As a result of our research we came up with the following findings and recommendations:

- There is a great need for high quality childcare for children in the James City County and greater Williamsburg area
- Although James City County offers subsidies for childcare there are more families in need of assistance than funds available. There is a serious need for subsidized daycare.
- There are also many people who are slightly over income for childcare subsidies, who are therefore facing the high fees for childcare without significant resources to assist them.
- After reviewing the data, the committee returned to the outreach ministry of Hickory Neck. We feel strongly that there is a need in our community to serve children and families in a way that allows them to reach their greatest potential while supporting the developmental needs of the children.
- Ideally the committee would recommend a daycare center that offers scholarships and subsidized daycare combined with a preschool that would assist in the funding of the daycare center.
- The daycare preschool would require at least 6 classrooms, storage space, bathrooms, and a closet for cleaning supplies.
- Bottom line, there is a need and if we had the facility we have an idea about how to meet that need. We do not have the facility and we will not have the facility in the immediate future.
- Our committee is now looking at our existing buildings or a temporary facility to determine if it would be possible to begin a preschool before we undergo another building campaign. If possible starting on a smaller scale would help us build capacity and funding for a daycare center.
- Next meeting is November 18 and the exploration will continue.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT -- NOVEMBER 16, 2008

Since my last communications report, the Communications Committee has continued to move ahead with our mandate to increase communications regarding Hickory Neck Church activities in the community at large.

The following is Martha McCartney's summary of her activities since the last Parish Meeting:

"Electronic Calendars and Newspaper Calendars of Events:

Hickory Neck events have been posted on the *Daily Press* and Williamsburg-York Daily electronic calendars. All *Daily Press* calendar items also were posted in the newspaper's calendar of events. Events that were publicized included the Bible study classes on Jonah and Corinthians I, visits by the Rev. Lauren Stanley and Gideons representative Andy Cronin, the Blessing of the Clowns, the Rev. Lauren McDonald's ordination, and the upcoming Fall Festival (material furnished by Jim Izzo). During the third week of May the Relay for Life was publicized online.

Newspaper Articles and Announcements:

Feature articles on the Rev. Ann Dieterle's departure, the Relay for Life, the Rev. Lauren Stanley's visit, the Rev. Lauren McDonald's becoming Hickory Neck's associate rector, and Bible study classes have been submitted to the *Daily Press*, *Virginia Gazette*, and *Toano Norge Times*. All have been accepted and published. The Clowns organization traditionally does its own publicity and this year was no exception. However, they did ask that their Blessing be included in the electronic calendars of events, which was done. The *Toano Norge Times* is going to do a feature article on the Hickory Neck cookbook, *A Time for Feasting*. Publicity on the cookbook's publication will be submitted to the *Virginia Gazette* and *Daily Press* after September 15th, the day the cookbook is scheduled to go to press.

Jamestown Cross:

Feature articles on the Rev. Lauren McDonald's arrival at Hickory Neck and on her ordination to the priesthood have been prepared and submitted. The article on her arrival has been published and the ordination article was submitted on September 6, 2008, along with ten digital photographs taken by Gary Harvey".

Joanne and Jim Izzo's report their efforts on communications for Fall Festival was as follows:

- *"Media which have been contacted and agreed to run an article or ad: Toano-Norge Times, Williamsburg Next Door Neighbor, Daily Press, Virginia Gazette, Williamsburg Magazine, Tidewater Review, Web Page (wydaily.com)*
- *Media contacted, still awaiting response: WMBG AM 740, TV Channel 46, New Kent Chronicle*
- *Announcements in HN Sunday bulletin and E-pistle since July*
- *Announcements in HN Nuggets since August*
- *Kiosk write-ups of various committees and photos of chairpersons*
- *Announcements in Bruton Parish and St. Martin's Parish on Sunday before festival*

- *Sign-up sheets posted on board near door in narthex by festival chairperson".*

Thanks to Jim and Joanne (and Martha McCartney), after the Fall Festival Mark Kintner, Fall Festival Chairman, was able to report to the Vestry that: "(We had) Outstanding communications efforts throughout the greater Toano/Williamsburg area...(we) made #6 on the Top Ten List in the Virginia Gazette and had good articles in all local papers and the Williamsburg Magazine".

Meanwhile, thanks again to the following people who keep our **in-house** communications running smoothly year round:

Steve and Nancy Snyder, for the Nuggets; Melissa Casheros, for the E-pistle; Laurie Brown, WebMinister and photographer; Carol Goff, Nuggets staff writer, Nuggets contributing writers, Doug Smith and Jim Izzo; and Hope Brans, our Parish Administrator, who coordinates ministry schedules for the Nuggets and the E-pistle, as well as the upcoming events inserts in the Sunday bulletins. Carol Goff has announced she will be taking a sabbatical, so Jim Izzo will do the staff writing for the Nuggets along with Doug Smith. Steve Snyder continues to interface with the Daily Press religion page editor and staff to insure the accuracy of their postings.

Respectfully submitted,
Eve Butler-Gee

**HNC Building and Grounds
Status report
10 Nov 08**

The grounds are in good shape due to the tireless effort of our Grounds chairman George Margroum, and his faithful helpers, in the weeding, watering, planting, pruning and general maintenance. George has also been busy designing and planting a new berry arbor along the back property line behind the new chapel. This will give us a chance to watch as the berries; blackberry, blueberry, and raspberry, flower and ripen. Some lucky ones may even get a nibble or two.

Our new sign continues to be a "Welcoming Sign" thanks to those volunteers which planted and maintain the beautiful flowers and shrubbery around it.

The garden in front of the Wilkinson Center received a welcome sprucing up, as did the parking lot sidewalk garden, and the area around our historic chapel, in preparation for our annual fall festival.

The border garden around the playground has received a new planting of Liriope and a new covering of mulch. And the interior of the playground was cleaned up with the help of some of our youngest parishioners.

A number of the flower beds have been adopted and maintained by volunteer parishioners, however many deserving beds are still awaiting the love and concern an adoptive person or family could offer.

The flower beds around our new chapel “seem” to be of the weed-less variety, thanks to the ongoing weed pulling and other forms of *penance* by parishioners.

Our Crape myrtles are looking better than ever, thanks to conscientious pruning and mulching by the members taking care of them.

Coyne and Co. continue to do a good job of keeping the grass cut, and picking up wind blown debris after storms. They have continued to mow the uneven ground in the back of our new chapel, in order to keep the plant looking clean and well cared for.

The buildings, thanks to many volunteer hours, are in very good shape, and continue to show that they are loved, which in turn makes Hickory Neck a warmer and more inviting place for parishioners and visitors alike.

Cox-Powel continues to provide outstanding service to our heating and air conditioning components.

The much anticipated humidifier for our new chapel nave has been installed and is ready to stand guard against the drying effects of our gas fired heating system. This was urgently needed to help protect our newly refurbished and expanded pipe organ.

The ‘temporary’ storage units behind our new chapel, which are used for storing items for our annual Fall Festival, have become more permanent thanks to the new roofs supplied and installed by a couple of members of our parish family.

The historic chapel has undergone renovations and repairs to help extend its life and to aid it in looking better for the many visitors and parishioners which cross its threshold daily.

The dehumidifier drain in the historic chapel has been connected to a pre-existing drain line, thus saving many hours and countless trips by volunteers in the service of draining the catch basin.

These and many more projects have been accomplished all or in part by members of our Hickory Neck Family. Including the many delicious meals supplied by Parish Life during work days. Proving the old adage “if you feed them they will come”.

It is been an honor to be involved in this portion of our ministry.

Don Seeterlin

Music report to Congregation and Vestry – November 2008
Submitted by Dr. Godshall, Organist and Choir Master

There are four items with regard to the Music Program at Hickory Neck Episcopal Church that I would like to bring to parishioners' attention.

First:

The Parish Choir continues to make their director proud.

The ensemble has learned many new anthems during the past twelve months. Their musicianship has improved as they have become more comfortable understanding what the musical symbols on the pages mean.

With the addition of a "real" tenor a few months ago, the Choir has reached the point where singing music in 4 part harmony (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) is no longer an impossibility.

We are investigating the possibility of offering an eight week course in sight reading to members who are interested in supplementing the training they receive at rehearsals on Thursday nights.

Second:

The Praise Band, under the direction of Nancy Aschiero, has shown improvement owing to several factors. The repertory of songs that they play has been reduced; the *Hickory Neck Hymnal* now contains a more concentrated number of songs from which music can be chosen on the Sundays when the Praise Band plays. (This also has the advantage of making the *HNH* easier to manage for members of the congregation.)

Additionally, the Praise Band has begun to experiment with having the lead guitar use a microphone which plays through the room's sound system. This has proven to be advantageous on two counts: the sound is louder – but not overpowering – which helps better support the congregational singing and it makes it easier for the members of the Praise Band to play in ensemble, even though they are physically spread out across the front of the nave.

Father Michael has taken over the responsibility of choosing the music for the Praise Band services. This has enabled the 9 am service to have the repertory of the songs more evenly distributed throughout the Sundays when the Praise Band plays.

There are some other minor adjustments being considered, which we hope will continue to improve the music on Praise Band Sundays.

Third:

The Choral Scholars returned this fall with renewed enthusiasm for their singing at the 11:15 service at Hickory Neck.

A new director, who also sings tenor in the ensemble, has been appointed. A music major at the College, he has proven to be an excellent choice. I feel that I have a better rapport with him than with previous directors. He has improved the singing as well as the attitude of the choristers. There are several new members this year who replace those who graduated last spring. (Last year's director has won a scholarship to study in the Middle East.)

The Choral Scholars are arriving at Hickory Neck better prepared on Sunday mornings and they have a better understanding of their part in the liturgy.

Fourth:

The Open Diapason rank of pipes has finally been added to the Woodberry pipe organ. Overseeing the work, Stephen Hunt of Central Pipe Organ Services ordered the pipes and the accompanying wind chest over a year ago and it took about a year for the pipes and chest to be constructed.

While this was happening, Stephen spent many hours installing a mechanism of his own design so that the pipes would be able to play: the mechanical keyboard linkage from the keyboard had to be turned into an electrical linkage since the pipes were going to be on an electro-pneumatic chest. When the pipes and chest finally arrived, Stephen and Don Clark installed the apparatus and connected it to the mechanism already in place. Stephen then voiced the pipes, adjusting each of the 61 of them so it sounded "right" with the rest of the instrument.

The resulting instrument is amazingly successful and is much more versatile for playing hymns and service music, accompanying the choir, and playing solo organ literature.

Dr. Godshall played a recital on 12 October 2008 to show off the new capabilities of the instrument. Attendance was about 150 people, with half of the audience being Hickory Neck parishioners and half being members of the community.

According to Stephen Hunt the blower of the organ can support one more new stop; he recommends a trumpet, as the organ as it now stands has no reed stop, which is a member of the fourth family of organ sounds.

Submitted 12 November 2008

Pastoral Care Ministry Report 2008, Submitted by Gay Forloine

Hickory Neck Church is truly blessed with caring ministers, both clergy and laity. I would like to give a special thank you to Ann Sloan, who retired in August of this year after faithfully coordinating the Prayer Warrior ministry for five years. A “thank you” also to Bob Gay, who coordinated our transportation ministry, providing rides to parishioners to medical appointments, fill prescriptions, and parish functions. In the future, this ministry will function as part of the Lay Visitor ministry. Our Pastoral Care ministries are as follows:

Emergency Meals (Shirley Forde): Simple meals are provided to those individuals/families needing temporary assistance due to illness or family crisis. There have been more than 50 meals delivered to 16 families/individuals this year.

Special Deliveries - New Mom’s Ministry (Christine Hanlon): Meals are provided to support new moms, dads and families right after the new baby and mom come home from the hospital. This ministry has 14 members, who made special deliveries of 14 meals in 2008.

Prayer Warriors (Lynn Kelley): About 55 prayer warriors have committed to pray daily for those who request prayers - these prayers are for members of Hickory Neck and also for friends, families, neighbors, and co-workers of our members. There have been more than 360 requests for prayers and thanksgivings this year. Sue Dugan has agreed to provide back-up for Lynn Kelley in this ministry.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors (Eve Gee): We have ten trained Eucharistic Visitors who take Holy Communion from the altar at Hickory Neck on Sundays to our parish members at home or in the hospital. This year more than 100 visits have been made to our parishioners.

Lay Visitors (Pam Maloof): Nineteen of our members have signed up to make a visit to ill parishioners either at home or in the hospital. Under Pam’s leadership there is now a focus on friendly visits to members unable to drive. These visits may include a luncheon outing or attendance at a parish function or a trip to the doctor’s office.

Prayer Shawl/Lap Robe Ministry (Kathy Ramsaur): This includes a group of about 24 women who knit/crochet at home or meet bi-monthly for lunch and prayer, knitting or crocheting the prayer shawls/lap robes given to those in need of comfort, strength, or celebration. This year 51 prayer shawls and lap robes have been delivered to our Hickory Neck members and to friends and relatives of our members.

Parish Nurse (Carolyn Gaylord): This new ministry is in the formation stage with plans to institute blood pressure screenings, information on good health practices, and a resource library with information on respite care, in-home care, long-term meal providers, Alzheimer and dementia care, and senior citizen issues.

Stewardship Report
Annual Meeting – November 16, 2008
From Melissa Casheros

We took a fresh approach to Stewardship this year at Hickory Neck in an attempt to avoid our usual October pattern of Sunday morning sermons and witness talks. Stewardship is an integral part of our Christian faith, but also something that is often quite personal. Therefore we thought this new forum would provide a better setting for asking and answering questions that many of you may have had, especially considering our current economic times. We reached out to almost 350 parishioners to invite them to one of 15 small group Stewardship sessions held throughout the month of October. Of those we invited, or attempted to contact, 133 attended a total of 11 sessions. Although the sessions were not as well attended as we had hoped, those who did attend expressed that they enjoyed the format, presentation of material, and the ability to ask questions in a smaller setting.

Change can often be difficult, so we expected it may take some time for this new approach to take root here at Hickory Neck. However, we need your help to make this transition successful. We need to hear from you to know how to improve it. Whether it be in the way session invitations are extended, follow-up, times, locations, etc., we want to know what could be done differently to enable those of you who didn't attend a session this year to attend a session next year. We all lead busy lives, and it can be hard to find time to schedule one more thing in the midst of work, family, Drs appointments, after school activities, etc. But by making time to attend one small group Stewardship session, you give yourself the opportunity to learn more about what it is to be a good Christian steward, as well as allowing Sundays in October to be focused on other aspects of our worship and liturgy.

We have work to do next year to improve on our approach based on lessons learned from this year, but considering how different this was compared to past years Hickory Neckers have been very supportive overall!

HICKORY NECK CHURCH CEMETERY

Continuing our long-standing tradition of providing burial space for our parishioners, we have opened up a new section of the cemetery this year. We know that there are now unmarked graves between the historic chapel and Richmond Road that may date from the eighteenth century. After the church was re-consecrated early in the twentieth century, burials were made on the east side of the building to prevent disturbance of the earlier graves. In 1980, that land on the east side was platted and all burial rights in that section are now sold.

In 1992, a Memorial Garden was designed and developed for the repose of cremains that are interred directly into the earth without containers. This area includes seasonal plantings within a boxwood garden with benches to enjoy a quiet moment. And now, the new section of the cemetery located to the north of the crape myrtles and between the historic and new chapels is platted and burial privileges are available for full size plots for traditional burials and half plots for the interment of one or two sets of cremains in urns (and vaults, if desired). Approximately 300 new sites are available with additional room reserved for future expansion. Rules and prices for the cemetery are located in the Wilkinson Center on the credenza by the Parish Administrator's office.

Additionally, the committee is still working toward finalizing plans for a columbarium. When this is accomplished, interest in and desire to purchase burial privileges in the columbarium will be solicited from our parishioners before construction is begun.

In 2008, we have had two interments in the older cemetery, two interments in the Memorial Garden and one interment in the new cemetery. We maintain a checking account for operating expenses (current balance \$2,348.00 and have funds for perpetual care invested in two CDs (current total \$11,535.00).

Cemetery Committee: Fred Boelt, Bert Geddy, Larry Kelley

Parish Life Report 2008

October 20, 2007- Lunch for the Buildings and Grounds Workday.

November 4, 2007 - Services were combined for celebration of Confirmations, Bishop Buchanan's visit and the dedication of the Wilkinson Educational Building.

November 18, 2007 - Musical celebration of the the end of the Capital Campaign.

November 26, 2007 - Hickory Neck hosted lunch for the Bishop Nominating Committee.

December 23, 2007 - Celebrated 10th Anniversary of Michael's Ordination.

January 1, 2008 - Burning of the Greens.

February 5, 2008 - Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

March 23, 2008 - Easter Egg preparation and Hunt

March 30, 2008 - Ann Dieterle's Farewell Reception

May 11, 2008 - Mother's Day luncheon by Men's Breakfast team

May 17, 2008 - Lunch for Building & Grounds work day

Men's Breakfast

August 23, 2008 - Pastor Lauren's Ordination Celebration

September 9, 2008 - Lunch for Building & Grounds work day

October 12, 2008 - Ed Godshall's Organ Recital

October 2, 2008 - Big Event social

November 8, 2008 - Men's Breakfast

November 16, 2008 - Luncheon with Annual Meeting

In addition to all these fun events our committees provide Sunday morning coffee hours, and work with the foyer groups This is done with help from many, many people. Thank you to ALL!

Lynn Geddy

Newcomers Ministry
2008 Annual Report

Purpose of Newcomers Ministry – To welcome visitors to Hickory Neck Church who may be searching for a church home. To inform visitors of the mission and ministry of Hickory Neck Church, as well as how they can become a part of our church family.

Sunday Greeters – There are 16 people on the Greeters' List for the 9:00 AM worship service and 15 for the 11:15 AM service. Greeters extend a warm welcome to visitors helping them to feel comfortable in our worship. Greeters explain the layout of the church to the visitors; introduce them to Hickory Neck members and to the ushers. They also encourage visitors to complete a visitor card.

Visitor Cards – From January, 2008, through November 2, 2008, the administrative assistant recorded pertinent information from 44 visitor cards.

Newcomers' Welcome Bags – From January, 2008 through November 2, 2008, Betty Somloi with assistance from Ed Joyner and Ann Lipp delivered Newcomers' Welcome Bags to 29 visitors. The Welcome Bags contain information about programs at Hickory Neck church, a brief history of the church and the historic chapel, 1-2 copies of the most recent Nuggets newsletters, a note from the person making the delivery, a loaf of homemade sweet bread prepared by a parishioner. and most recently home jam made by Linda McGee. Visitors living more than 25 miles from Hickory Neck receive information in the mail.

Sweet Bread Bakers – There are a total of 5 parishioners willing to bake the sweet bread which is included in the *Newcomers' Welcome Bag*. The bakers so far this year have been Shirley Forde, Maria Kane, and Pam Stromberg.

Newcomers Social – Newcomers' Social were held in the Wilkinson Center on February 17, 2008, May 16, 2008 and November 9, 2008. The clergy, members of the Vestry, and other church members welcomed 31 visitors and/or new members at these happy events.

Sincerely submitted,
Ed Joyner
Betty Somloi