

Round 1, Question 1: What is the thing that makes HNC a special place?

Love & Support / Fellowship **85/147 = 58%**

1. People, openness, warmth. Attracted me when I first came here
2. Acceptance –not just of me by everyone, but just acceptance. I was 13 or 14 years old there weren't that many in this church. There was no priest, a priest "rode the circuit" and came here.
3. We saw friends here that we had known when we went here before and they were so glad to see us, it was as though we had never left.
4. The welcome and openness was overwhelming. After 25 years in the sheltered environment of the military life, it is scary to be out in the civilian sector. We felt safe and welcome.
5. I remember the date I first came here. It was January 11, 2006. A parishioner welcomed me and I knew I was home.
6. We moved here 8 years ago. We checked out Bruton but it always seemed to be visitors' day, cold and formal. We tried St. Martin's and there was no chemistry there. Then we came to Hickory Neck. Unlike some others who have had a thunderbolt experience, HN gradually grew on us.
7. I like the openness here—for example, some people stand, some kneel. Some are dressed up, some casual—a church that accepts everybody. There is a lot of potential here. People here are open to growth and to moving forward
8. We have traveled to churches. My wife is more outgoing than I am so it has to click with her. We retired here and she came down ahead of me and felt comfortable at Hickory Neck—the common thread is the people and Michael.
9. We have lived in Williamsburg a long time. We went to Bruton for 20 years and then we moved to Toano. The children sang in the Children's Choir and so did we. We visited Olive Branch and several non-denominational churches [after we moved to Toano]. We came to HN once and the second time we came Jim Kellett remembered us. He told my husband he needed him here. That was it. This Church is willing to reach out and grab you and say "we need you".
10. The new chapel had not been built yet and we were at service in the old chapel when a lady sitting next to my husband fell ill. In the care and concern that ensued, we realized that we were not "under the radar" on our first Sunday. Everyone was so welcoming and we came back several times. We decided that Hickory Neck was the place for us.
11. I'm not outgoing, but at Bruton no matter how often I worshipped there I was always asked if I was new. Here people know me and I like to do things and help with Buildings and Grounds. I love to garden. I keep thinking about the song we sing "Surely the Presence of the Lord is in This Place".
12. ..love, prayers, concerned, people that are present for you, people who are involved in one another in the truest sense of the Word;
13. ..I do not feel alone. In times of trouble, the vision of holding hands and declaring The Lord's Prayer, has sustained me;
14. ..I have met more people and feel involved;
15. ..There are no social pressures. There is a "welcomingness" and feeling of home with casual acceptance and love;

16. ..We have always been about fun and we are one big family;
17. ..I am among friends and now, family. Isn't it all about family?
18. ...Joyfulness, love and hospitality. "This has always felt like home to us!"
19. Came to Williamsburg with fiancé just out of college. Looked for a church for a long time. Were not welcomed at other churches. Didn't seem to fit in anywhere. Visited HN. Loved and accepted us immediately. Priest said he would marry us. Members of Hickory Neck for 18 years. Especially appreciates loving environment at HN.
20. Worked at a community college. Liked and needed sense of togetherness, belonging. Found similar community at HN. Important to her. Started coming to HN during the final planning stages of the Fall Festival. Spirit high, which was very appealing.
21. 5 years ago, husband very ill. In the hospital for 9 weeks. After being at VCU for 2 weeks, a young minister came to visit on his first day of work. He was there for the husband and the family. HN parishioners who were praying sent him. Something she will never forget.
22. Health and well being of parishioners dominates staff meetings.
23. Story goes back to 1987. In 1990, had major stomach surgery. Felt prayers of HN parishioners brought him through surgery and healing process. Has had no health issues since.
24. Has always been involved in church with family. Returned to VA 2 years ago. Went to another church at first. Realized she was not the right place. Neighbors suggested she try "the little church up the road." Glad she did.
25. Has been to many churches. Feels people are welcomed and valued here. Sees HN unique in that newcomers are immediately empowered to take part and express their ministries. Culture accepts newcomers. Clergy empowering to all. Important to get people involved.
26. Atmosphere, togetherness of trying to do something
27. Personable, not a number, one on one, Jim Kellet would stop by and visit
28. Closeness – physical in the Historic Chapel as well as the emotional, comes to HNC to be taught – by example of the people here
29. Feels close even as the church grows
30. Felt wonderful
31. Introduced to congregation & felt at home immediately, Jim Kellet would visit
32. All felt so right – being introduced to the congregation, holding hands during the Lord's Prayer, kids sitting in the windows
33. Moved to Williamsburg 20 years ago with 2 small children. Went to an outdoor event at a church in town. No one spoke to them. Continued to go back to this church for a few Sundays. Priest even mentioned "ignored family" at outing during a subsequent service. Family quite embarrassed. Still nothing changed. Started looking for a new church. Came to HN. After service, everyone started talking to them. Felt welcome. Such an important difference.
34. No Vestry horror stories.

35. Feel welcomed & new people continued to be welcomed
36. Has been a member of HN for 8 months. Nearly didn't move to Williamsburg because couldn't find a church. Talked to builder rep. He recommended HN. Soon after this conversation, Gay Forloine called. Wife ran into HN parishioner while shopping in McLean. Impressed by the loving, efficient manner in which a medical emergency was handled first Sunday he and his wife attended HN in Historic Chapel. Felt divine intervention led him and his wife to HN. Arrived at HN intending to lay low. Tasked to take on jobs immediately. Given opportunity to participate in vital ministries of the church. Incredible place.
37. Came to HN because of experience at council the year HN became a parish. The HN group had their banner and red balloons. They looked really happy and wanted to check out where they came from and why they were so joyful. Liked what they found.
38. Were looking for a church home. Debating between 2 churches - a special invitation from Dick Wilkerson was the determining factor.
39. First came to HN during lent. Could see from bulletin board there was much activity, the holy spirit was alive, felt like home, felt immediate warmth and friendship. Feels apart because of preparation processes and opportunities for input like this
40. Feels diversity is a big asset. Having different services provides something for everyone.
41. HN has had a cast of characters. That's what makes us real. Whether you want to wear blue jeans or your hair to your shoulders - it is okay. We are not homogenized. Hat, hugs, and cries are okay.
42. Father Kellet's visit to my home is what made me come back. He took the time to visit and share what HN was and wanted to be. Liked people. Made us feel comfortable. Really liked the smallness, growth hurts.
43. We need to be aware of welcoming and connecting with newcomers. We also need to be aware that we not overwhelm newcomers. Sometimes explanation of the bulletin and books can be helpful. Personal introduction to Michael and Ann is good. FELLOWSHIP
44. Invited to HN by a banker
45. Would like to see multigenerational functions
46. Physical facility concern. Parish House is not large enough. With so much growth in area will need to address this. Want space for dinners, fall festival and other events not in the nave. Like to have sacred space left alone.
47. Love
48. Acceptance
49. Comfort
50. Feels like home
51. Newcomers are welcome and becoming involved
52. Hickory Neck is/has the feeling of family. Warmth- love-greet one another-take care of one another. Overjoyed being here. It is like a family reunion. People, people, people.

53. Clergy: They go beyond the church, they bring comfort when comfort is needed, Michael and Ann are the glue. We have grown under their leadership. They are also the source of our concern; we know what they do for us. We need to take care of them.
54. Holy Spirit is present & sustaining
55. Fr Michael real & accepting
56. Real person answered the phone
57. Bonded w/ Fr Kellet over sports
58. Acceptance of people
59. Energetic clergy - DITTO
60. Friendliness of the people - DITTO
61. Refreshing lack of dogma
62. Welcome Basket
63. Liked wine/cheese after Evensong
64. Easy to come, easy to stay
65. Sense of community
66. Community not divided by age groups
67. Open, friendly, warm, welcoming - DITTO x5
68. Greeters for newcomers
69. Recognize newcomers
70. Wide congregational participation
71. Keep common activities/programs
72. Episcopal Church like breath of fresh air
73. Newcomer Social
74. Closeness and common bond/spirit
75. Small, homey feel
76. Welcoming Clergy & congregation
77. Coffee Hour - newcomers feel included
78. Growth & change upbuilds everyone
79. HNC has no established cliques

- 80. HNC is not too large - don't need a ticket
- 81. HNC is laid back & friendly
- 82. Good sense of humor
- 83. Personal clergy followup to a Sunday discussion
- 84. People helpful during troubled times
- 85. Impressive leadership

Worship / Music 35/147 = 24%

- 1. ..Hickory Neck has given me (and my family) another chance (to worship). I felt welcomed to participate in worship and activities. God is here;
- 2. ..this is a joy-filled place, really Good News;
- 3. ..there is a transformer-type of energy hum around here and it charges my battery;
- 4. Not too shiny or too perfect, not big and imposing – the church needs your participation
- 5. Love the New Zealand liturgy would like to see it used more. Not during lent but maybe in the spring.
- 6. Include children's music
- 7. Music: Praise for the Praise Band and the Choirs. Well integrated into the service.
- 8. Worship: There are many styles of worship. The service is dignified and reverent. Adheres to the Gospel. The sermons, the sermons, the sermons. Stretches your thinking
- 9. Kids in the windows
- 10. Blessing of the animals
- 11. Unique church building, congregation
- 12. Spiritual commitment on issues
- 13. Theology makes sense
- 14. Serve Christ
- 15. Children are part of family service
- 16. Clergy a big plus
- 17. No admission card required
- 18. Programs for young and old
- 19. Different styles of services

20. Services are uplifting & refreshing
21. Clergy are touchable & genuine
22. Holding hands for Lord's Prayer
23. Physical touching - Peace
24. Fr Michael stretches us spiritually & physically
25. Service warm and comfortable
26. We are ALL the church
27. Worship binds to the spiritual experience
28. Flexibility in the new space
29. No complacency in our own little pews
30. Floral arrangements well tied to themes
31. Episcopal liturgy mixed with open communion
32. Dedicated, spiritual leadership
33. Bible study can draw you in
34. Praise Band
35. Praise Music

Spirituality / Discipleship 21/147 = 14%

1. When I play golf people ask me how long I have been playing and tell them I have played golf for 40 years, correction I've played one year 40 times. Where Hickory Neck is concerned, my previous spiritual (Sunday school) journey was one year 45 times. Here I can concentrate on expanding the journey. Hope to look back in 15 years and take pride in how many spiritual journeys, not buildings, Hickory Neck started.
2. I was also one of the people who did not have the instant feeling of connection with Hickory Neck, it took a while—Michael Delk and his message. He's not afraid to preach the real message of Jesus—that makes you uncomfortable and makes you want to be challenged
3. I've always worked hard and was brought up to believe you always strive to do the best job you can. I have spent my life working at my job and various other performance oriented things...but here at HN I'm allowed to use the talents the Lord gave me and my sense of worth is different here...and it's working.
4. The uniqueness of HN goes back for a long time. There was a prayer vigil for a sick parishioner in Historic Chapel. Felt something that night. Life changing event. Person was healed and is well to this day. 3 years on Vestry had tremendous impact. The love, the people and the spirituality at HN mean a lot to him.

5. After 28 years of moving every 2 to 5 years, returned to Williamsburg in 2003. Spent first 8 months back in Virginia helping younger sister in Raleigh get to doctors' appointments and chemotherapy sessions. Sister passed away in December 2003. Spiritually at a very low point. Knew she needed a faith community, but was so distraught and depressed she couldn't get herself to church. Finally, the first Sunday in Lent, 2004, she walked into the Historic Chapel and immediately felt the Holy Spirit wash over her. Attended every service and event offered throughout Lent and during Holy week. Quickly became involved in many church activities.
6. Many in group agree the Historic Chapel is a holy place. The Holy Spirit is palatable in that space. The community that fills the Historic Chapel is full of the Holy Spirit.
7. Was looking for goodness in the world, peered into the historic chapel one day and it looked peaceful, upon visiting a service found it to be a tranquil space, good people.
8. Personal energy level is not a high – from age, exhaustion, apathy or maturity? – but there's a “warm glow”
9. Don't think will find anything better even though is not in a “not-too-passionate” stage of life
10. Feels Michael has such powerful leadership skills we need to do our part to support him.
11. Afraid of small groups forming (cliques) - that's bad.
12. Purpose but not restricted
13. Holy Spirit “owns” HNC
14. Consuming Holy Spirit-powerful
15. Being fed
16. Connected feeling, connected Spiritually
17. High energy
18. Spirituality: What we seek is here- we found it. God is here. We live on faith. We need quiet time for prayer, to be alone with silence, to be alone with God
19. Outreach and inreach: Many ways to become involved, good organization
20. Clergy well grounded in faith
21. Clergy very spiritual

Christian Formation 6/147 = 4%

1. ..this is the place to exercise my liberties of religious freedom. I hold precious such a democratic church where discussion and debate are encouraged. I feel that I'm an activist in Father Michael's army and in a world where church is mass-marketed - we are unique;
2. ..I believe in the participation and involvement and that no one demands behavior from me.
3. Church has always been part of her extended family. Daughter and son-in-law attending HN for some time. She just officially joined the church. Motivated to come to HN so family could worship

together. Became immediately involved in Vacation Bible School. Lovely experience. Not just young children and their parents, but all ages participating in Bible School. Important to her. Impressive. Easy transition into HN.

4. Bible study trivia or other activities to include all generations for interaction
5. Bible School was a wonderful experience with excellent program and leadership
6. Education programs: Michael's and Ann's classes. Rewarding and stretches your thinking. Promotes greater understanding of the bible, religion, the Episcopal Church and our lives. Lay training