



Hickory Neck Nuggets

Hickory Neck Parish Episcopal Church

August 2011

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The Odyssey

The Reverend Michael L. Delk

By the time you read this, I will have been back at work for three weeks, but at the time of this writing, I'm on Day Two. It occurred to me that it might be helpful and interesting to share with you what happened while I was away on medical leave.

As most of you already know, I have struggled with episodic back pain for several years. The culprit was thought to be three degenerating discs in the spine, right at the belt line. At first, I might miss the occasional day of work, but over time the spasms associated with this weakness in my spine became more severe and more frequent. However, repeated MRI's showed no significant degradation of those three discs. It was a mystery.



Then 2011 arrived, and with it, the most fierce and sustained episode of back spasms I have ever experienced, the kind of pain that made me sweat profusely and caused my hands to tremble. It wasn't a pretty sight, and I know that many of you saw it. And the spasms simply would not go away. Prescription medications provided little relief, while taking a toll on my mental faculties. The exercises my physical therapist taught me seemed useless.

Then a parishioner recommended I see a neu-

rosurgeon, just to make sure there wasn't anything wrong with my "wiring." I got an appointment in February, and the neurosurgeon told me the pain was definitely connected to nerves in my back, but that neurosurgery was not advised. However, this physician did recommend I see a physiatrist, a physician who specializes in pain management and my type of back problem.

After a fairly long search, beginning with the dictionary to figure out precisely what a physiatrist did, I found someone in Richmond who saw me on March 22nd. Dr. Schimpff immediately discovered that while my degenerated discs weren't doing me any favors, the real problem lay in the sacroiliac, or SI-joints, of my pelvis. These were inflamed. Nerves in my back were relaying news of the trouble to my brain, which responded by causing my back to spasm.

Fortunately, there was a fairly simple, if unpleasant, solution. Those sensory nerves have only one job: tell the brain what's happening with those joints in the pelvis. Cut off the path of communication, and my brain is no longer aware that there's a problem, and it stops telling my lower-back muscles to go bonkers.

Hence, began a series of three weekly tests.

Each week, someone would drive me to Richmond, because after the tests you're really in no shape to drive yourself back. Long IV needles would be inserted into my back, and using fluoroscopy, the relevant sensory nerves were located. Then a chemical was injected that temporarily disabled those nerves. In all, twenty nerves – ten on each side of my spine – were tested. (Yes, it hurts.)

For the next couple of days, I was to monitor my back condition. If my back improved for a few days, and then got worse, we knew that we had found a nerve responsible for sending the signals from my pelvis. After the three weeks were over, we had a plan. Eight nerves would be severed, or ablated, to use the medical term.

These procedures occurred two weeks apart in April. They were similar to the tests, except that once the needle was inserted, a small electrical current was passed through an electrode threaded through the needle and attached to the nerve, to make sure we had the correct one. Then a radio-frequency filament was inserted through the needle to the nerve, heated to 183 degrees Fahrenheit, and after two minutes, the nerve was knocked out of commission. (Don't try this at home. It *really* hurts.)

After a few weeks, my back had improved considerably, and it was May. However, after nearly three months of very limited activity, I was considerably weakened, and recovering my endurance would take a couple of months.

In the midst of all this, Bishop Hollerith remained in contact with me, members of the staff, and the Wardens, Ann Cooper and Lucy Rothnie. As you may remember, Bishop Hollerith served as Rector of Bruton Parish for several years before being elected our bishop, and he and I know each other well.

Concerned that I would place my duties to the parish over the recovery of my health, the Bishop issued a pastoral directive, which is the Church's version of the military's direct order (from your commanding general). He instructed me to cease exercising my office as a priest. I could speak to a few members of the lay leadership and with Lauren McDonald, but I could not weigh in on any policy decisions. I was banned from the grounds of Hickory Neck.

This seems very draconian, and I admit that I was

pretty peeved with the Bishop for a couple of weeks, but once I calmed down, I realized that he was motivated by the best intentions. Delaying my recovery through premature exertion would not help me or the parish. By issuing a pastoral directive, I no longer had a choice about whether or not to be present for special events, like Maria's ordination, weddings, or any of the many funerals that were held during my absence.

Not only did this prevent me from harming myself physically, it also saved me a lot of agonizing about "well, my back has been doing pretty good this week, so I ought to be able to go in and help out for a few hours." Under a pastoral directive, there was no choice, no decision to make. It was extremely difficult for me to be absent from those special occasions, but I prayed at home while they were going on.

The second half of May, all of June, and the first half of July were spent increasing my stamina, so that when I returned to work, I could be effective and at full speed, with little risk of relapse. I fashioned a cautious exercise program, contrived mental exercises designed to simulate work, and spent time in meditation. It may sound like a lot of time, but during February, March, and April, I could barely sit-up for more than 30 minutes at a time without excruciating pain, and standing up or walking for any distance was nearly impossible, even with the aid of medication.

While I was away many things happened, and they were handled well. Verbose though I may be, it's hard to find the words to express the gratitude I feel for the staff, the senior lay leadership, and the entire parish for how you distinguished yourselves in ministry while I was away. Not that I was surprised, but I know that some exceptional efforts were required to compensate for my absence, and I have no adequate recompense, only my sincerest thanks.

I learned a great deal during my time away. It gave me an opportunity to think about many things. Being isolated from Hickory Neck taught me just how precious of a gift we share together. In fact, I wasn't quite myself without you, and I am delighted beyond measure to be back.





Spotlight on the Byrd Family

Kathryn Seeterlin



If you read the Virginia Gazette article this past May about the Byrd siblings then you may know of their talent on the tennis courts. Both Ryan and Brook were number one seeds for Warhill High's boys' and girls' tennis teams this past season. Of course you cannot forget about their coach and dad, Bob, as well as their very supportive mom, Nancy.

There is a lot more to this family than just tennis though. After retiring from working in marketing research on diabetes monitors, Nancy, a Williamsburg native (having graduated from Walsingham Academy and University of Virginia), was ready to move back to Virginia. Bob, a high school math teacher and coach, also wanted to retire here and thought Virginia colleges would be best for the kids. The family loves being back near family and fishable water (as fishing is a family hobby).

The Byrds moved to Williamsburg in 2007 and soon began looking for a church that had an early service, a choir and a youth group. Nancy says "We found all that and much more during our first visit during Advent 2009. We had noticed Hickory Neck Church when we would drive by to our home in Toano. We were immediately impressed by the preaching (kept our attention) and have felt that way ever since. We

were also touched by the warmth and welcoming spirit of everyone at Hickory Neck and quickly started looking forward to going to church. This is quite a statement when you consider we are talking about two teenagers and the 8:00 a.m. service! I have enjoyed and benefitted from the choir, book group, and prayer shawl ministry."

Nancy then added, "I have so appreciated the support, concern, and prayers (and prayer shawl) for my sister, Mary Kennedy Little, from the Hickory Neck Church family over the past year. Mary passed away on June 28th after a long battle with cancer."

So what else does this family like to do, besides tennis and fish? It turns out tennis is actually a secondary sport to younger sibling Brook. "Swimming is my main sport" she says. In addition to competing she also is an assistant swim coach and swims on the same Williamsburg Community Swim Team that her mother did 40 years ago. Plus, small world that it is, Nancy was thrilled to realize that fellow Hickory Neck member Lucy Rothnie was the same Lucy Jones that she swam with on that same team.

This fall Ryan who will be starting his freshman year at the University of Mary Washington, says that he looks forward to "meeting new people, sleeping in, free time and playing tennis." He is considering majoring in business, finance, or possibly education. Brook knows a lot will be different without her older brother around and she says, "Not only am I losing my brother for the year but also a practice buddy and a great friend. Ryan is more or less a role model to me in high school, tennis, and at home." She has two more years till college but already plans to major in engineering and continue to coach in her spare time.

Bob enjoys working in the yard and garden (and can also be found at Hickory Neck Church work days) and continues to coach Ryan and Brook as well as girls'

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Visit Hickory Neck on the web at Hickoryneck.org

Welcome Back, Father Michael

Jim Izzo

The belief that an individual can really make a difference in society, that each one of us can change the world for the better is more than youthful idealism. It is the reality of Hickory Neck Episcopal Church, whose world was changed for the better when the Reverend Michael Delk became its rector in 2002, and it was changed this year when our pastor's health issues forced him to take a leave of absence for several months. Everyone has missed Father Michael for many reasons, including his leadership, his sense of humor, his enthusiastic singing, and his sermons. For me, it is the sermons I missed most because they reveal so much about the priest and the man: not only a knowledge of scripture but also the ability to make it relevant to our lives, personal anecdotes which make him one of us, the courage to speak out about contemporary issues, and a wisdom beyond his years.

A few examples, using the words of Father Michael's sermons, will illustrate the preceding statement. Last November, lamenting the fact that "in my thirty-eight years as a citizen of this country, sixteen of them have been lived under the pall of war, which gets one fifth of our national budget," Michael called on us to "become more vigilant about spreading God's love than we are about securing our own safety."

He urged us to "follow and set the example of a saint" in a sermon last January, assuring us that "even small actions can yield large results, and, if we persist, over time, the world can become a better place, more prone to peace among nations and peoples, more just and less self-centered."

All of us enjoy anecdotes from Michael's own experience: his childhood swimming lessons, basketball practices, and auditions for the Kentucky All-State Symphonic Band. My favorite personal statement was Michael's admission that "God hunted me down, when I wanted to be a lawyer but was meant to be a priest." Countless people are happy the young man listened to God's calling.

A frequent theme of Michael's sermons is that faith alone is not enough; we are called to do good deeds. ("There is much we can do to improve the condition

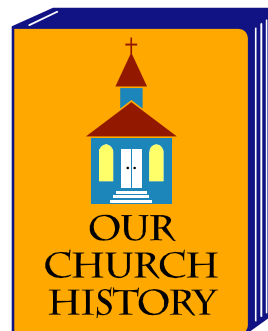
of those who dwell on the margins of society"). Though actions speak louder than faith or words, "words have enormous power to harm and to heal." He charges us in one sermon to "watch your words and listen carefully to your thoughts." Father Michael's words often challenge us ("Share your gifts with others"), or offer consolation ("You are good enough, no matter what the world tells you"); they sometimes amuse us and always provide food for thought.

Despite claiming that "I'm not a Fix-It kind of preacher," Father Michael's words do suggest solutions to our problems, and his deeds set an example, offering a path to follow – teaching the youth group, conducting Vestry meetings, discussing the Bible in a study group, joining parishioners on a mission to Honduras.

We all welcome Father Michael back. We celebrate his return to good health. Our prayers have been answered. We also express our gratitude to Pastor Lauren for all the extra duties she assumed in Father Michael's absence, and the manner in which she lead us through the last several months: grace under pressure.

A Quaker Missionary Visits Blisland Parish

Martha W. McCartney



Thomas Story, who was born around 1670 in England's Kirklington Parish, studied the law and became a Quaker when he was around 19 years old. Having had what he considered a conversion experience on April 1, 1689, he "put off his usual airs, jovial address, and the sword which he had worn as a modish and manly ornament." He also burned his musical instruments and began dressing more simply. He commenced preaching in 1693, the same year he met William Penn and decided to settle in London. Among those to whom he delivered his message were two titled noblemen, a countess, and tsar Peter the Great. Story accompanied Penn to Ireland in 1698 and in November set sail for Virginia. He intended to spread the Quaker message there before joining Penn in Pennsylvania.

Story expected some opposition to his teachings, for Quakers' steadfast refusal to bear arms gave rise to suspicions about their loyalty to the Crown. Moreover, their refusal to take oaths of office prevented them from holding any public position. Also, their failure to pay their church levies (or taxes), as required by law, could lead to their arrest. To faithful members of the Church of England, Quaker religious practices, which excluded the rites of Baptism and Holy Communion, seemed heretical. The Quakers' quaint patterns of speech and conservative attire further set them apart from their neighbors.

This was the setting into which Thomas Story ventured in Spring 1699, when he arrived in Tidewater Virginia. He began by visiting the home of Edward Thomas, who lived on Queens Creek, and stayed there for several days. While he was in the area he carried his message to families who lived in what was then Warwick County and then went to Martin's Hundred in James City County, where he held a meeting at Robert Perkins' home. He also visited the dwelling of John Bates, founder of the Skimino Meeting in York County. After Story went to the lower side of the James River, where he met with Quakers there, he headed to the upper reaches of the York River and tried to convert a group of Chickahominy Indians then living on the Mattaponi River.

Quaker missionary Thomas Story then turned back toward Queens Creek and the home of Edward Thomas. However, he paused first "at a place called Hickory-Neck" where he held a meeting "at the House of one Edmund Brewer" and preached to a large gathering. Story said that "some persons were a little airy [flippant], yet being rebuked by my companion in his testimony, they became more quiet and sedate." Although the location of Brewer's home is uncertain, it is interesting to note that the name "Hickory Neck" had come into use by 1699.

Spotlight on the Byrd Family
(continued from page 3)

tennis at Warhill in the spring and Walsingham Academy in the fall. Nancy enjoys reading (she loves the Hickory Neck Book Group lead by Maria Kane), singing, playing cards with the family (and at Hickory Neck game night) and she follows baseball (Baltimore Orioles, Cleveland Indians and William and Mary).

August Celebrations



Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 - Bev Kemp | 15 - Laurie Brown |
| 1 - Wade Wirt | 16 - Ben Lensenmeyer |
| 1 - Emily Wirt | 16 - Sam Lensenmeyer |
| 2 - Kris Arcement | 17 - Tanya White |
| 2 - Ervin Best | 20 - Amanda Meszaros |
| 2 - Gay Forloine | 20 - Ann Sloan |
| 7 - George Loving | 21 - Alastair Smith |
| 7 - Jeff Seiler | 22 - Parker Kindley |
| 7 - Claire Sink | 24 - Ann Burkett |
| 8 - Bunky Garfield | 25 - Martha McCartney |
| 8 - Peter Haines | 25 - Steve Snyder |
| 8 - Elizabeth March | 26 - Kathy Balentine |
| 10 - Martha Millhouse | 28 - Alison Bailes |
| 12 - Susan Banks | 28 - Ann Cooper |
| 13 - Brette Miller | 28 - Wilson Simmons |
| 13 - Andrew Small | 30 - Janet Parsons |
| 13 - Lisa Small | 30 - Jodi Paul |

Anniversaries

- 2 - Ethel & George Margroom
- 5 - Denise & James Deal
- 6 - Carol & Rin Fraize
- 7 - Janet & Ken Parsons
- 8 - Paula & David Simmons
- 18 - Lisa & Dan Swaney
- 23 - Pam & Kevin Maddox-Jefferson
- 23 - Janet & David McConaughy
- 23 - Claire Sink & Bruce Hill
- 25 - Betty & Hoover Lide
- 25 - Jennie & John McCray

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.

CREDO and Creativity

The Reverend Lauren McDonald



During June I took some of my continuing education time to attend CREDO, a clergy wellness conference sponsored by the Church Pension Fund. The conference is eight days long and includes plenary sessions on Financial, Physical, Spiritual, and Vocational Health in addition to small group work, game night, an evening with a fancy dinner in the local town, individual consults with faculty, and an opportunity for a massage. The focus of the conference is to encourage clergy to examine all of the areas of their lives and to make a plan for personal wholeness and growth so that they may in turn be able to model wellness in the communities in which they serve.

According to the CREDO literature, the Latin word, CREDO, can be translated as “I believe,” but it also has a much deeper meaning. Literally translated, it means, “I give my heart.” CREDO encourages participants to rediscover the passionate essence of their life and ministry in the context of their faith, their relationships, and community. I am grateful for the time away to participate in the CREDO conference, to enjoy the low humidity and beautiful scenery of Northern California, to eat nutritious food, to sleep, and to work on my own health in the company of colleagues. Thank you to all who made it possible for me to go.

One of my favorite parts of CREDO was a video that we watched about creativity. In it, the National Geographic photographer, Dewitt Jones, talked about his success as a photographer. He said that creativity is the ability to look at the ordinary and see the extraordinary and suggested that we can do that every day. He demonstrated how changing the lens on the camera can give us a whole new perspective, and he emphasized that there is more than one right answer. As he showed us picture after picture in which he changed the angle or lens, we could see that all of the pictures were excellent, and yet they were all different. If we stop at the first right answer, we may miss some even better possibilities. It does mean we have to be willing to make some mistakes. And we have to trust that the next right answer will be there.

As I continue to grow on my spiritual journey, I am reminded that I may not always see what the next right answer is, but I can trust God to provide it. Whether it’s a decision about my personal life or one about Hickory Neck Church, I may have a limited perspective. One of the best things I can do is to step out in faith, letting go of my attachment to a particular outcome, and to trust that God will lead me to the next right answer. At times it may be difficult, but it’s also exciting. I don’t have to come up with all the answers by myself. Neither do you.

As we enter the later days of summer and begin to turn our attention to a new program year, how might we use our creativity to transform the ordinary into the extraordinary in our daily lives? How might we reframe problems into opportunities? How might we fall in love with the world and trust God to carry us through each new day? There are so many possibilities ahead of us. Where will we give our hearts?

Stewardship

Mary Teale



An example of service as stewardship is visible every Sunday, operating so quietly that it is nearly unseen. However, it is necessary for the smooth conduct of our church services.

Ushers greet you as you enter the church, handing you a bulletin and a Hickory Neck hymnal. They lend an arm to those who need a little steadying on their way to their places. When they pick up the collection plates at the altar, they give the attendance number to the celebrant so that there will be the right number of wafers available for communion. They take up the collection. They guide the flow of parishioners to the altar rail for communion. When the service is over, they gather the bulletins and the hymnals and tidy up the church. This is done for every service, every Sunday, and for special services such as weddings and funerals. And you hardly notice that all this is going on.

The Historic Chapel services can be managed with only one usher. However, because of the size of the

New Chapel and the larger attendance there, it is much better to have two ushers at those services. The 11:15 a.m. service needs more people who would like to usher at that time. Ushers may be men or women. Training will be provided. If you are interested, please call Dave Hartsough, 250-3151.



Nugget Notes

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 Lauren**. 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 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.

On June 29th, **Jan Brown** resigned from Vestry for personal reasons. We will miss her wise counsel and zeal for ministry. In accordance with the parish by-laws, the Vestry will appoint a parishioner to fill the vacancy until the next Annual Meeting, when someone will be elected to fill the remaining two years of the term.

Every quarter we work with From His Hands to prepare a meal and serve it to our neighbors who live in the Grove area. The next date is Thursday, September 1st. We will need 4 or 5 people to prepare the meal at St. Martin's from 2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. and 5 or 6 people to serve the meal at Grove Christian Outreach from 5:15 p.m. to 6:45 p.m. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please contact **Pastor Lauren**.

Camp Chanco is beginning a restoration project on one of its conference centers. In August, the first

part of this project will commence with the replacement of the roofing, siding and insulation of one of the conference center buildings. Doug Weymouth (Cursillo alumni, professional contractor, and member of Christ and St. Luke's in Norfolk) has graciously volunteered to supervise this project and will need several teams of volunteers to provide the labor. Whether you can just swing a hammer and haul away debris or whether you are a professional roofer, we need YOU! All skill levels are necessary for this project to be a success. To volunteer, please contact Doug Weymouth at athike@juno.com and indicate when you are available between August 8th and 18th.

If you're one of the people who signed up to assist the Fall Festival Silent Auction Committee by calling on a business or businesses, we would like to know how you're doing. Please contact **Steve Snyder** at 804-557-3175 or nansteve13@cox.net to provide him your current status.

Bruton Parish Church is doing a wonderful job helping homeowners in Grove who have suffered damage to their homes due to recent tornadoes. Currently they are working on 3 homes and are in desperate need of a few extra hands. If interested in volunteering with this most worthwhile ministry, please contact Jerry Jackson (the Bruton organizer) at 345-2276 or via email jjackson18@cox.net.

New Foyer Groups begin in September. Sign-up sheets for Daytime, Evening, or Singles Groups are available in the narthex at church. For further information or to sign up call or e-mail Daytime Foyer – **Carol Smith** 757-259-6813, Evening Foyer – **Mary Jo Smith** 757-564-1232, or Single Foyer – **Sue Dugan** 757-221-7091.

There is an immediate need for drivers who can give rides to church for members who cannot drive themselves and cannot otherwise attend. Other transportation needs include drivers to take parishioners to appointments. If you would be able to volunteer, please call **Pam Stromberg**, 757-345-5723.

LiteracyWorks, our project to provide GED classes to students at SpiritWorks, is in need of more meal providers. There is a sign-up sheet on the kiosk, or you can contact **Joan Forrest** directly at mostlytrees.net.

The Reverend Bob Kerner is a priest in this diocese who is in need of a liver transplant from a living donor. A number of donors have been through the screening process (continued on page 9)



Hickory Neck Fall Festival

Saturday, October 8, 2011

10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



If it takes a village to raise a child, it takes all of the Hickory Neck parishioners to orchestrate a successful Fall Festival. We need everyone's participation to ensure that funds are raised to support our Outreach Programs including: Angels of Mercy Clinic, Faith in Action, SpiritWorks, HELP, Grove Christian Outreach Center and other local charities. Thank you to those who have already volunteered, but more parishioners are needed. With your incredible experience, skills and talent, there's a place for everyone to help. If you haven't worked at the Festival in the past it's great fun and an opportunity to make new friends!

Please contact a committee chair to volunteer for our 2011 Fall Festival.

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
Fall Festival	John Rothnie	804-966-9811	johnrothnie@cox.net
'Amazin Grazin' Bake Sale/Future Delights	Paula Simmons	757-564-7998	simmons@verizon.net
Arts & Crafts	Judy Kintner	757-741-2051	judykin@cox.net
Attic Treasures	Mary Jo Smith	757-564-1232	dpmjsmith@verizon.net
Communications	Anne Johansen	757-345-0658	ajohansen@aol.com
Finance	Fred Boelt	757-566-0274	fwb@widomaker.com
BBQ Master	David Ware	757-718-5829	dww52046@aol.com
Historical Chapel Tour	Martha McCartney	757-565-1740	sitesleuth@aol.com
Children's Events			
Outdoor Activities	Mark Kintner	757-741-2051	mak1995@cox.net
Parking	Linda Matthews	757-220-1027	papabud@cox.net
Silent Auction	Steve Snyder	804-557-3175	nansteve13@cox.net
	Gerry Hassig	757-566-3584	gerry.hassig@gmail.com
Facilities	Bill Teale	757-345-3745	weteale@cox.net
Food Tent	Paul Casanave	757-566-8120	Paul_Casanave@cartermachinery.com

Nugget Notes

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cess and have not been a match. Donors must be: 18-50, type O or A blood (+ or -), relatively good health, no history of heart or liver disease. Recovery for a donor is about 6 weeks, with about a week in the hospital following surgery. The donor's liver will grow back within a month. Call April Ashworth, Living Donor Coordinator, at Virginia Commonwealth University Medical Center: 804-828-4104. Bob's wife, the Reverend Sandi Kerner has asked that churches in our diocese make this information known so that potential donors might be found. Sandi and Bob have been active in our diocese for a long time and are particularly known for their participation in Cursillo and healing ministry.

The Health Ministry Team will be showing a DVD about our Phillips Automated External Defibrillator (AED) on Sundays during the month of August between the 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services. It is approximately 30 minutes long and an excellent AED review. For Hickory Neck Episcopal Church responders occasional updates are necessary to remain competent; however, we invite anyone with an interest or curiosity about the AED to attend. We are fortunate that we have a very busy parish. Should an emergency occur when one of our responders is not available, AED knowledge could make a difference in the outcome. One DVD, one Sunday in August, 30 minutes of your time, and you could save a life.

The Prognosis

The Reverend Michael L. Delk

In the cover article, I described the course of my testing and treatment, but many might be wondering about the future. Basically, it boils down to this. There is a 50/50 chance that the nerves we severed could regenerate.

If they do, then the procedures, but not the time-consuming testing, would need to be repeated, perhaps in a year's time. This would result in two or three days of recuperation for both applications of the procedure. Fortunately, this can be planned in advance, as soon as symptoms reappear. Unfortunately,

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Treasurer's Report

(as of 06/30/2011)

YTD Budget Income	\$214,275.02
YTD Actual Income	\$221,208.01
YTD Budget Expense	\$214,275.02
YTD Actual Expense	\$206,059.18

Fred Boelt reports that he is not sure whether the roller coaster at Busch Gardens or the financial roller coaster at Hickory Neck has more peaks and valleys. Our income was low in April, high in May, and low again in June by budget comparison. Analyzing this, it is partially due to the giving patterns of our parishioners: annually, quarterly, monthly, weekly, and "moved by the Spirit." Looking at the over-all picture for the first six months of 2011, our income is over budget and our expenses are under budget, yielding a net positive balance of \$15,149. Second quarter contribution summaries have been distributed. Please take a moment to review your statement. Keeping our income flow up to date is critical in the management of our financial obligations.

In June, we were able to make an additional payment in the amount of \$1,000 on our mortgage principal, bringing that balance to \$428,129.90 as of July 1st. The Davenport Fund made a modest gain in the second quarter closing at \$61,953.47. Additionally, we received our annual mortgage interest subsidy from the Diocese in the amount of \$4,057.09 which certainly helped to lower our expenses for the month.

As some of you know, a small portion of our campus extends into the adjacent cultivated field. The summer wheat has been harvested, and the field has been replanted with soy beans. Ample rain and summer heat yield good crops. When we were a rural society, good crops meant extra gifts of thanksgiving to the parish. Even though we are not dependent on the harvest of our field, consider a special gift of thanksgiving for the "harvest" in your life at any time during the year. It takes all of the special gifts of time, talent and treasure to maintain the fields of our Holy Hill.



Hickory Neck Parish Episcopal Church

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Hickory Neck Happenings



Tori Oxley and Adam Otstot were married by The Reverend Maria Kane at Hickory Neck Episcopal Church on June 25, 2011.

Editor's note: *Hickory Neck Happenings* is our way of highlighting important events, such as weddings and baptisms, in the life of our parishioners. These events will frequently, but not necessarily, take place at Hickory Neck; but regardless of where they take place, we would like a picture to display in the next editions of *Nuggets*. Please send pictures to nansteve13@cox.net and include pertinent information such as date, location and names.

The Prognosis

(continued from page 9)

the practice I see only performs procedures on Thursdays, so I'd miss the Sunday after each one.

I hope and pray that I'm in the happy half that has these procedures done once, and the nerves don't regenerate. If not, then the procedure may need to be repeated on a roughly annual basis until I reach my mid-40's, the time in life when the nerves' capacity for regeneration diminishes considerably, or until enough scar tissue builds up from repeated ablations to physically prevent the nerves from reconnecting.

In the meantime, the discs in my back will still have to be handled with respect. They have been causing only a fraction of the trouble over the past several years, but they retain the ability to make life miserable if I'm careless. So no start-and-stop, twisty-turn sports for me; no basketball, racquetball, football, or soccer. But that I can live with.



Our Church
Family

Burials

Emma "Babe" Transue – 13 July

Lewis Bloesing – 16 July

Marie Citro – 25 July

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August Deadline – July 15th

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