



Hickory Neck Nuggets

Hickory Neck Parish Episcopal Church

September 2011

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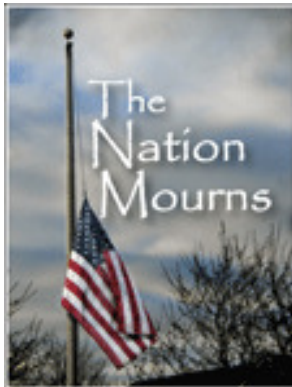
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Dreadful Tuesday

The Reverend Michael L. Delk



Dreadful Tuesday once again arrived at the Cathedral Meeting Day. Full staff at 9:20 a.m., followed by department staff at 10:30 a.m., a brief lunch break, followed by pastoral care and prospective member review at 12:30 p.m., finished up with canon staff at 2:00 p.m., and a liturgy meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Staying awake was an art form, and by the end of the day, everybody felt overwhelmed. So many action items emerged in those meetings, it felt like a new mountain was hurled up on a weekly basis, demanding to be climbed before the next craggy monolith took its place in six days.

This particular Tuesday – September 11, 2001 – began for me like so many others, with a stop at the Cathedral kitchen for a quick fix of caffeine, at around 9:05 a.m. My Communications Director was waiting for me there with the news that a plane had crashed into the World Trade Center. Initially, I thought this was some sort of sick joke, or at worst a terrible accident, or perhaps a flamboyant suicide.

Immediately, we rushed up to my office, which had one of only two cable-ready tele-

visions in the entire Cathedral complex. (The other was in the Dean's Office. Being Canon for Communications had a few perks.) Literally the instant I walked into my office, a second plane crashed into the World Trade Center. This was no accident or suicide, and though what was happening was certainly sick, it was no joke.

Our first meeting of the day convened in a few minutes. I notified the Dean, but we stayed on task, leaving a canon to monitor developments. As the meeting progressed, nobody really paid much attention to the business at hand. Our appointed watcher returned all too frequently to inform us that the Pentagon had been hit, that planes were being grounded all over the country, key institutions in Washington were being evacuated.

Finally, the meetings were cancelled, and Dreadful Tuesday took on a new, much more significant meaning to me. Nobody knew why or who or when it would end. By this time, Atlanta skyscrapers were being evacuated. We went into action, and for a Church, action in such circumstances means corporate prayer, better known as worship.

Our first Requiem Eucharist would begin at noon, with another scheduled that evening at 7:00 p.m., and this pattern was repeated every day throughout the week. We got out press releases, and within hours of the attack, 250 people had gathered to sing songs of lament, pray for the souls of the dead and the grieving,

and to re-member the Body of Christ through Holy Communion. That night, approximately 1,500 people attended, our full capacity. A parishioner had gone out and bought thousands of small American flags, giving them to people as they entered.

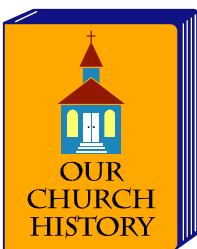
By the next morning, we knew more than we wanted to know about who and why and what, but we also learned something about the healing power of prayer and the immense value of worship as a space in time to commune with God and rally together people frightened, outraged, *yet not terrified* by the actions of a handful of very malicious people mistakenly labeled terrorists.

This year, September 11th does not fall on a Tuesday. It lands on a Sunday in our calendar. As we approach the 10th anniversary of this calamitous event, it is proper for us to pause and reflect on what happened then and what has occurred since. Our worship on 9/11 will be altered – in its hymnody and prayers, and the introduction of spans of silence – so that we might achieve a peace of healing.

I hope you can make a special effort to make the meeting we call worship that day, as we remember that terrible day and as we re-member the Body of Christ through Holy Communion; for the power of grace, received so clearly in the bread and wine, triumphs over death and the deeds of the wicked. So while we may rightly feel somber in marking this historic event, we might also come away rejoicing in the faith that Christ truly conquers all.

The Colonial Church's Ornaments

Martha W. McCartney



In 1724 when the Bishop of London sent a lengthy list of queries to Virginia clergy, one of the questions he asked was whether “all things [were] duly disposed and provided in the Church for the decent and orderly performance of Divine Service.” In other words, how well was each parish outfitted for the proper conduct of services?

These essential pieces of equipment, often called “ornaments” of the church, included a Bible and two

copies of an oversized Prayer Book. One was for use by the clergy and the other by the clerk, who led the responses and also the singing of the Psalter. Silver vessels for the celebration of Holy Communion were considered essential and consisted of a flagon, one or two chalices, and a paten. A “carpet” or heavy cloth of silk, velvet, or damask, was supposed to be placed on the Holy Table beneath the communion linen and vessels. The communion linen consisted of a “fair white linen cloth” on which the vessels were to be placed and another “fair linen cloth” to be used in covering the vessels. Another essential was a baptismal font or silver bowl.

A cloth was supposed to cover the pulpit’s reading desk and hang down as an antependium. A cushion upholstered with rich silk or velvet was to be placed on the pulpit. It was there that the parish priest was to place the text of his sermon while he preached. He was to wear a surplice while conducting liturgical offices, but he was supposed to remove it before preaching the sermon, then wearing a black scholastic gown. The vestry was obliged to provide the priest with a surplice but he was expected to have his own gown and bands. In 1724 when the Reverend Daniel Taylor, Blisland Parish’s rector from 1704 to 1729, responded to the Bishop of London’s questionnaire, he reported that his parish, which had two churches, was adequately supplied with “ornaments.” Blisland Parish’s records demonstrate that on at least one occasion, its vestry ordered purple silk lace, tassels, fringe, and fabric from England, from which its altar hangings and surplices were to be made.

In 1725 after Wilmington Parish was dissolved and part of its territory was added onto Blisland Parish, Blisland’s vestry decided to ask former churchwarden William Browne to relinquish the defunct parish’s communion silver. He refused and as late as October 1734, after the construction of Hickory Neck Church had gotten underway, Blisland Parish’s vestry again attempted to wrest the silver from Browne. Finally, in 1745 the vestry authorized the Reverend Chicheley Thacker to order communion silver for Hickory Neck. None was purchased, however, perhaps because it proved too costly. Finally, in 1753 Blisland Parish’s vestry obtained the House of Burgesses’ permission to sell some parish-owned real estate to raise funds that could be used “to buy Communion plate & Ornaments for the lower Church,” that is, for Hickory Neck. Although those items were purchased and put to use, they disappeared around the time of the American Revolution, never to be seen again.

Message for Maria: “Be Well, Do Good Work, and Keep in Touch”

Jim Izzo



The words of Garrison Keillor seem well-suited as we say goodbye to the Reverend Maria Kane. From the time she became a member of the Hickory Neck congregation several years ago through her ordination in May of this year and beyond, Maria has touched the lives of

young and old and everyone in between at this parish.

I got to know her best from the book discussion group she started a couple years ago, an appropriate activity for an avid reader and a natural teacher. Maria’s book selections introduced the group to several authors with whom we were not familiar, which made the reading educational as well as enjoyable. So were the discussions, which Maria led with ease. Like a good teacher, she was genuinely interested in the answers to the questions she asked, and she got everyone to participate in an orderly manner. I know there were easier ways to spend a Saturday morning every month, especially for someone working on her Ph.D., preparing for the priesthood, and teaching a college course, but Maria kept the book group going for two years, as a service to the congregation and part of her own education.

Maria’s sermons reveal the idealism of youth and the good news of Scripture, both of which we all need a healthy dose at regular intervals. By revealing facts about herself, her family, and her experiences, Maria has enabled us to reflect on our own lives and relate to each other. As a gifted speaker, she is easy to listen to, but her words have substance because of her scholarship and sincerity.

Of many memorable sentences she has written, a passage from a recent sermon, which perhaps suggests the foundation and direction of her ministry, says: “I invite you to take your place on God’s stage. It is not too late to learn how. You may not receive a thunderous or

sudden dawning, but through the steadiness of a life lived in communion with one another, you know you will belong.”

As Maria takes her own place “on God’s stage,” we all wish her much success and happiness in her vocation and in her personal life. We will keep her in our thoughts and prayers. She will always be a part of the congregation of Hickory Neck Episcopal Church.

Monday Night Bible Study Resumes

The Reverend Michael L. Delk

On September 12th, our Monday night Bible study will reconvene with a 6 – 7 week exploration of Paul’s Letter to the Galatians. By far his most emotional epistle (and the man wasn’t a wallflower), Galatians deals with a congregation that has lost faith in the gospel of grace and has returned to the mistaken belief that salvation must be earned by doing the right things and not doing the wrong things. Paul elegantly attacks this false idea, arguing that the grace we receive from Jesus Christ is our only means for our justification before God. Indeed, the right we do and the wrong we avoid are products of that grace, rather than achievements of our own effort.

Each session will begin with prayer and a hymn, followed by the reading aloud of a chapter from scripture. Then I will offer a brief gloss, or review, of the text, followed by general discussion and questions. Before we end, we take some time to reflect on how the passage applies to our daily lives, and then we finish with another hymn and some prayers. The entire evening lasts a little over an hour. BYOBible, though we do have copies available if needed.

Vestry Highlights



The highlights from the August Vestry meeting will be published, along with the September meeting highlights, in the October issue of Nuggets.

Sunday School Starts Soon

The Reverend Lauren McDonald



This year our schedule is a little different from past years due to our tenth anniversary remembrance of 9/11. Here's what's happening:

September 11th

10:15 a.m. Open House and Registration. After the 9:00 a.m. service stop by the Parish House to register your child for Sunday School and to take a peek in the classrooms and meet the teachers.

September 18th

9:00 a.m. Teacher Commissioning during the service
10:15 a.m. Sunday School Starts
4:00 – 6:00 p.m. Kick-Off Picnic Potluck

During the final hymn of the 9:00 service, all teachers and students follow the banner out of the chapel and over to the Parish House for singing and Sunday School. That afternoon all Sunday School families are invited for a potluck picnic. Sunday School will meet regularly during the year between the 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. services. We will not have Sunday School on October 8th in honor of the pet blessing.

September Youth Group Schedule

All youth in grades 6-12 are welcome!

9/11 – 7:00 p.m. Interfaith Service at Walsingham Academy on Jamestown Road. Meet at 6:50 p.m. so we can sit together. Pick up time is 8:00 p.m.

9/18 – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Youth Group meets at the church for picnic, corn hole and games.

9/25 – 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. Youth Group meets at the church.

Vacation Bible School

Paula Simmons



What a wonderful way to kick off August with "Taste and See: God is Good" Vacation Bible School (VBS)! Children and volunteers truly tasted and saw that "God is Good." Highlights included learning about manna from Heaven, the Parable of the Sower, Passover, and the Last Supper; decorating aprons and "Our Daily Bread" napkins; making placemats and pretzels;

playing baguette baseball; eating popcorn "manna;" and collecting food for FISH, Grove Christian Outreach Center, and the Peninsula Food Bank. The week culminated with Eucharist at which the children shared the songs they had learned during the week. The fellowship that was enjoyed throughout the week continued with the families sharing a potluck lunch to close VBS.

Sixteen children and friends of Hickory Neck Church participated: Luke Barnes, Saharra Davis, Emma Delk, Shannon Hunter, Miles Lampert, Reid Lampert, Colin Moore, Carter Pruitt, Ellie Pruitt, Branson Seiler, Caleb Seiler, Xavier Seiler, Trevor Simmons, Wilson Simmons, Alex Wood, and Mia Wood (see picture on page 8).

Although much planning is needed prior to VBS, it cannot happen without the many teens and adults who volunteer during the week. Much thanks goes to those from the Hickory Neck community who helped before or during VBS week: Christine Barnes, Nancy Davis, Eleanor Hunter, Maria Kane, Brig Lampert, Linda Matthews, Brett Miller, Adam Ostot, Tori Ostot, Carol Smith, Sarah Wood, Daniel Zoeller, Marta Zoeller, and Rebecca Zoeller.

Next year, Hickory Neck Church will host VBS when our focus will be talking with God. We are developing a curriculum about prayer, and all ideas are welcome. Please share your ideas for prayers, creative activities, games, songs, favorite scriptures, etc. with Paula Simmons as we create another wonderful week for our children to grow closer to God.



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.

The Reverend Lauren McDonald writes that on September 1st we had our final serving date for From His Hands. Each year we serve meals on four dates to our neighbors in the Grove community. A few parishioners meet at St. Martin's from 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. to cook a meal under the supervision of Alita Small. Then Gary Harvey and John Rothnie bring the Salvation Army canteen truck over to St. Martin's to load up the meals and drive them down to the Grove Christian Outreach parking lot. More parishioners team up there to greet those receiving meals and to serve and pack the meals. Janice Wagner helps the team by making reminder calls to each of the families receiving meals. Our teams have served in freezing temperatures, in heat waves, and during storms. A huge thank you to everyone who participates; especially **Alita Small**, for planning and coordinating the meals, and to **Gary Harvey** and **John Rothnie**, for driving the truck and overseeing the serving. Our cooks and servers this year have been: **Carl Aschman, Martha McCartney, Ben and Bonnie Manning, Lucy Rothnie, Linda Matthews, Linda Wever, David Hartsough, Bob and Kathy Carlson, Gayle Bangert, Vicki Parker, and Carol Talley**. Please forgive me if I have left anyone off the list.

(continued on page 6)

September Celebrations



Birthdays

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 - Larry Kelley | 19 - Laurie Todd |
| 1 - Elizabeth Kingsley | 20 - Dave Simmons |
| 2 - Shawn Paul | 22 - Pam Maddox-Jefferson |
| 3 - Steven Kingsley | 24 - Heather Sinclair |
| 4 - Ed Joyner | 25 - Linda Cole |
| 6 - George Johnson | 25 - D.J. Seeterlin |
| 6 - Ben Manning | 26 - Bill Burnett |
| 8 - Barbara Husted | 26 - Emily Corlett |
| 10 - Joshua Dutro | 26 - Barbara Laroche |
| 10 - Janice Wagner | 26 - Cheryl Mathews |
| 11 - Ann Burnett | 28 - Stephen Greenhow |
| 11 - Alexandra Beisch | 28 - Len Wagner |
| 13 - Denise Deal | 29 - Rick Garfield |
| 13 - Patty Kipps | 30 - Maria Seeterlin |
| 15 - Jessica Kingsley | |
| 18 - Kristin Baum | |

Anniversaries

- 1 - Susan & Samuel Banks
- 1 - Nancy & Bob Byrd
- 1 - Merri & Tom Kelly
- 5 - Eve & Tom Gee
- 5 - Barbara & Rich Johnson
- 9 - Jeanne & Bob Williams
- 16 - Sara & D.J. Seeterlin
- 28 - Chris & Bob Zoglman

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.

Nugget Notes

(continued from Page 5)

On Sunday, September 11th at 7:00 p.m. there will be an Interfaith Celebration of Remembrance, Reconciliation, and Restoration at Walsingham Academy Upper School. The service has been planned and will be led by clergy and representatives from Christian churches in the Williamsburg area in cooperation with Temple Beth El and the Muslim community and Student Organization at William and Mary. This service is planned to commemorate the anniversary of 9/11 with a focus on faith communities coming together and looking toward the future. The Hickory Neck youth group will be attending. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Is Education for Ministry (EfM) for You? Education for Ministry has been described by some as "just another Bible study," but those who take part in the four-year study know EfM to be much more than that. EfM is a college-level course for lay persons. There are no tests, but you will have homework and weekly seminar group participation. The first two years participants study the Old and New Testaments. In years three and four you'll turn to church history and "Theological Choices". Along with the reading and discussion, theological reflection takes place. If you are interested in joining us on Wednesday nights from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. contact **Rick Garfield** (566-3538 (H), 864-2955 (W)) or talk to anybody you know who is participating in or has completed the course. Participants are not committed to the entire four year course – commitments are annual.

One line of a famous 19th century hymn goes like this: "Will there be any stars, any stars in my crown?" The sure fire way to have stars in your crown? – Join the parish choir! Rehearsals begin on September 1st at 7:30 p.m. and continue on Thursday nights. The choir sings at the 9:00 a.m. church service on the first, third, and fifth Sundays of the month. *New members are welcome!* We require no auditions. We accept all volunteers. Don't read music? – We'll teach you. Your primary motivating factor should be *sticktuitiveness*. So come on out, stick to it, and win some of those stars.

Sunday School Registration and Open House will be held on Sunday, September 11th. Come to the Parish House between the 9:00 a.m. and 11:15 a.m. ser-

vices to register and visit the classes upstairs.

Commissioning of Teachers, First day of Sunday School, and a Kick-off Picnic will be on September 18th. Details to follow.

On Sunday, September 18th, the Adult Forum will resume at 10:30 a.m. in the Historic Chapel with a seminar on "Sharing Our Prayer." None of us are experts on any of the many ways we can commune with God, but all of us have helpful hints to share with others. Here is a chance to learn from others, while building them up with your own insights.

The Women's Spirituality Group will resume meeting on Saturday, September 17th from 10:00-11:30 a.m. in the Wilkinson Center. We will be exploring the topic, "Listening to God," and will have the opportunity for prayer and conversation. If you have a journal, you might want to bring it. All women are invited to attend.

Chaplain Rick Jenkins at the Virginia Peninsula Regional Jail recently shared his appreciation for the hundreds of volumes Hickory Neck donated to the inmates over the last couple of years. We've been so generous, along with others in the wider Williamsburg community recently, that they have all of the books they can store for now. But please don't let that stop you from placing books in the bin in the narthex. If our book bin runs over, **Laurie Brown** will find a suitable storage location until the jail can receive them.

With this year's Fall Festival coming up on October 8th, the Attic Treasures team needs every parishioners' help. **Jenny McCray, Gayle Bangert** and **Mary Jo Smith** want you to scour your home and those of family, friends and neighbors to find the treasures you no longer need. The success of this booth depends on your clean-up efforts. Contact **Mary Jo Smith** or **Mark Kintner** for pick-up of your items. If you need boxes for collection let us know. Large items can be picked up the week of the Festival.

New Foyer Groups begin this month. 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 email: Daytime Foyer – **Carol Smith** 757-259-6813, Evening Foyer - **Mary Jo Smith** 757-564-1232, or Single Foyer - **Sue Dugan** 757-221-7091.

Thank You Note

I said it before and I'll say it again – *Thank You*. Thank you for the fabulous reception. (Yes, I noticed the orange cake and loved it.) Thank you for all your meaningful warm wishes and hugs as I departed – I'll remember them forever. And, thank you for the generous gift from the entire parish. You have blessed me tremendously and lessened the burden of my transition.

Over the past five years you have shared your stories and your love with me. *Thank you*. Thank you for being my “other” family. Most importantly, thank you for being you. As I focus my energy on my dissertation in earnest, your support over these years will give me the strength I need to press on.! You are forever in my heart. Goodbye...*for now*

Be well.

In Christ's love,
Maria+

Parish Retreat

Paula Simmons

Chanco on the James will be the site of the 2011 Hickory Neck Church Parish Retreat on Friday, October 14th and Saturday, October 15th. Just a ferry ride and a short drive will transport you to the beauty of Chanco. Parishioners of all ages are encouraged to be a part of this time of fellowship and inspiration with our church family. Registration forms are available on the Hickory Neck Church website and at the church. Register by returning your form and your payment to the church office by Tuesday, September 13th. To learn more about Chanco, view the website at www.Chanco.org. For more information about the Hickory Neck retreat, see the kiosk in the narthex or contact Paula Simmons at 564-7998.



(as of 07/31/2011)

YTD Budget Income	\$249,654.19
YTD Actual Income	\$260,885.51
YTD Budget Expense	\$251,154.09
YTD Actual Expense	\$241,790.56

Fred Boelt reports that the financial roller coaster continues at Hickory Neck. July was another high spot on our ride through the year. Having a month with five Sundays never hurts. All three income categories, pledge, non-pledge and loose plate, finished over budget for July. Expenses were slightly under budget, yielding a month with a positive ending, and a year-to-date ending of \$19,095 in the black! Additionally, \$835 was contributed toward the diaper fund, which has now provided 6,090 diapers, a huge help for families in need.

And lest we become complacent in our good fortune, I need to remind you that we are having some extra expenses occurring in August. Insurance will cover some of the repairs in the Wilkinson Center, but we will incur unplanned HVAC and pest control costs this month. Therefore, it is our plea that we all keep up to date on our contributions of treasure. There have certainly been abundant gifts of time and talent by several of our parishioners to see us through the crisis. We simply could not afford to operate our facilities at the level that we do without the generous support of all of parishioners.

As I write this, we are in the midst of the dog days of summer. Walking about our campus, the crape myrtles and the summer annuals seem to be surviving the extreme heat. So far, there has been just enough rain to sustain them, allowing us to continue to enjoy their beauty. Just as the plants are uplifted by the rains from the heavens, we are uplifted by the love of Christ shared with one another. Our lives are enriched each day by sharing our time and special talents, and our treasure, so that our Holy Hill may continue to spread the Good News both far and wide.



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Hickory Neck Happenings



August 2011 "Taste and See: God is Good" Vacation Bible School at Bruton Parish.



The 11th annual Blessing of the Clowns took place at the 9:00 a.m. service on August 7th, with the Kolonial Klowns of Williamsburg, Clowns of America International – Alley #357, well represented at the service. A reception in the Wilkinson Center, hosted by Kolonial Klowns of Williamsburg, followed the service. Pictures taken by Gary Harvey.



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October Deadline – September 15th

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