



Hickory Neck Nuggets

April 2013

"Deliver Us From Evil"

by the Reverend Michael L. Delk

The title of this piece is a familiar phrase from the Lord's Prayer. Many of us say these words every day, hardly noticing their import after so many repetitions. Yet this peculiar plea implies a terrible reality. If you aren't being affected by something, you don't need deliverance from it. To put it plainly, we live in the midst of evil.

No real surprise there, but to pause and acknowledge that fact is disturbing. Actually, when evil rears its ugly head in the most undeniable of ways, it goes beyond disturbing. More like downright terrible.

None of us needs long to ponder to find examples of evil. Memories of the school shooting in Connecticut late last year still linger. Terrorism tops the list for many. Others witness systemic injustices so wicked that a great abominable evil seems to be at work.

For all of our regrettable experience with evil, though, we can struggle to put our finger on exactly what it is. Where is the

dividing line between an evil act and something that's simply immoral? Is it a question of circumstance or of quality or of quantity?

What defines evil, and how do we describe it? For instance, we often associate evil with suffering, but what is the relationship between the two? Is suffering an evil, the result of evil, or are some forms of suffering unassociated with evil?

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What is the source or origin of evil? Is there a nebulous force that opposes God in the universe, a force that seeks to destroy us, or is there an entity – say, the devil – that God allows to exist? Or is evil simply the sum of all our sins, the sum that is greater than all its parts?

This brings us to the real nub of the problem. If God is both good and all powerful, then why is evil allowed to happen? There is a wide array of possible answers to that question, answers worth exploring, because evil afflicts us and rarely for the better. It is a perplexing topic that deserves our attention.

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Therefore, starting on Monday, April 8th, we will begin a series of sessions on evil and suffering, aptly titled, “Deliver Us From Evil,” because at the end of the day, no matter how badly we want to understand it – and understanding something does help make a difference – what we really desire is for God to keep us away from it, or at least help us stay as far away from it as possible.

This course will occur twice a week, to accommodate the varying schedules and preferences of our parishioners: Monday nights at 7pm and Thursday mornings at 10am. The substance of those sessions will be the same, but I doubt the discussion will be, because each of us brings a particular perspective on this problem, having encountered evil and suffering in our own unique way. A major resource for our study will be the Bible, but we will be using other useful materials as well, and perhaps the most valuable of our non-biblical resources is the pooled wisdom of our experiences.

I look forward to taking the plunge with you on this most challenging of matters. You may feel some discomfort at the prospect of dealing with this topic, but since dwelling with evil appears unavoidable, might it not be best to confront our fears and perhaps, thereby, calm them by engaging evil head-on?

Sign-up sheets will be available in the Narthex, both to gauge interest (we need a minimum of 6 people to make a small group viable) and to insure that we have enough sessions (to facilitate fully inclusive discussion, we need to set a maximum of 15 people per group). If interest is high, then we may schedule groups for alternate dates and times, or run multiple groups at the same time and date.

I look forward to this adventure with you, and in the meantime, may God deliver us from evil indeed. ✚

Hickory Neck Community Garden

We have been called to be good stewards of all our resources. Hickory Neck is blessed to have a large campus that offers us the opportunity to provide space for gardening. In the past, a few families from the parish have utilized this space to create a garden that has yielded bountiful fruits and warm fellowship.

So that others may also benefit from these resources we will be inviting our neighbors to share in our Community Garden. We are excited about the opportunity to share these resources. We especially look forward to meeting our neighbors and to providing space for those who do not have their own land on which to plant a garden. For many, being able to work the soil is a life affirming exercise; and this, as well as the yields of the harvest, will help strengthen our community.

The garden is of course available to our parish members, as well as the community. Each plot is approximately 20ft x 20ft. A covenant is being written that will create the guidelines to which each gardener will agree. Central to the covenant is our stewardship of the resources with which God has blessed us.

Foundational to this is the use of organic gardening practices to assure the most healthful environment for all. We are also working toward the use of a rain water harvesting system for irrigation.

If you have any questions or wish to reserve a garden plot please contact Fr. Henry.



Card Ministry

In an effort to recognize all parishioners who are celebrating a birthday, coping with a difficult situation, recovering from an illness, grieving a loss, or needing to be remembered by their church family, the Pastoral Care committee requests your help.

First, if your birthday does not appear in church publications, please let Hope know your birth date so that you may be properly recognized. Also, if you know anyone at HNC who needs a card – get well, sympathy, coping, or thinking of you – please let Sue Edwards know by calling **(757) 206-1029** or email suedwards@cox.com

There are several members of the card ministry who are eager to make sure everyone gets a card when they need it.

Drivers are needed occasionally to transport parishioners to church or to doctors' appointments.

This particular ministry is vital to those who are unable to drive, and it is a great opportunity to show God's love to those who need it most. Please let Sue Edwards know if you are willing to be a driver. Email suedwards@cox.net or call **(757) 206-1029**.

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 Father Henry.

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 effect 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.



Vacation Bible School

“Jesus’ Water Miracles” will be the theme of VBS this summer during the week of August 5-9 from 9 a.m. to noon at St. Martin's Episcopal Church. This theme connects to St. Martin's Outreach committee's emphasis on the Episcopal Relief and Development (ERD) program to help communities achieve access to clean water by disinfecting and installing a pump in existing hand-dug wells and using a water capture system that delivers water through public and private water taps.

The five miracles to be presented during the week are Jesus' baptism, Jesus changing water to wine, the miraculous catch of fish, Jesus healing the man born blind, and Jesus walking on water. Based on these stories, a curriculum needs to be produced which includes storytelling, crafts, outdoor activities (water play, of course), snack and song. We need all the ideas we can get to develop this curriculum.

An enjoyable brain-storming meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 10, from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at St. Martin's Miles Hall. Nothing is too “out of the box,” so come and share your ideas. Contact Paula Simmons at 564-7998 with questions or suggestions. More information to follow.



Senior Scams

by the Reverend Henry P. McQueen

As Christians we want to help those in need, and unfortunately that can mark us as targets for fraud and scams. Even more susceptible to scams can be Senior Citizens. Recently in the Williamsburg area a number of senior residents have been the targets of these scams; one woman in Williamsburg lost \$3,000 and a woman in Virginia Beach lost \$9,000 all to a very common scam.

These people received a phone call saying that their grandchild was in trouble, usually an accident or medical situation, and needed cash immediately. When questioned, the caller said that they did not sound like the grandchild because their voice was affected by the “broken nose” and “medications” resulting from the trauma.

Sadly, this is only one version of many scams that are targeted to Senior Citizens. The FBI website lists many of the common frauds that target this vulnerable group, and suggests that there are reasons this group is targeted.



- Senior Citizens especially should be aware of fraud schemes for the following reasons: Senior citizens are most likely to have a “nest egg,” to own their home, and/or to have excellent credit—all of which make them attractive to con artists.
- People who grew up in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s were generally raised to be polite and trusting. Con artists exploit these traits, knowing that it is difficult or impossible for these individuals to say “no” or just hang up the telephone.
- Older Americans are less likely to report a fraud because they don’t know who to report it to, are too ashamed at having been scammed, or don’t know they have been scammed. Elderly victims may not report crimes, for example, because they are concerned that relatives may think the victims no longer have the mental capacity to take care of their own financial affairs.
- When elderly victims do report the crime, they often make poor witnesses. Con artists know the effects of age on memory, and they are counting on elderly victims not being able to supply enough detailed information to investigators. In addition, the victims’ realization that they have been swindled may take weeks—or more likely, months—after contact with the fraudster. This extended time frame makes it even more difficult to remember details from the events.

Source: (<http://www.fbi.gov/scams-safety/fraud/seniors>)

With the likelihood of prosecution being so low, groups of con artists target Senior Citizens, and are very adept at overcoming every objection or question. This is very sophisticated crime in action. According to the National Council on Aging (www.ncoa.org) the top 10 scams that target Seniors are:

- **Health Care/ Medicare/ Health Insurance Fraud.** The perpetrators pose as Medicare representatives in order to obtain personal information and then bill Medicare so they can pocket the money.
- **Counterfeit Prescription Drugs.** Better prices on specialized medications are offered on the internet.
- **Funeral and Cemetery Scams.** By reading obituaries, scammers will identify and try to extort money from relatives to settle a fake debt. Another problem is unnecessary charges added to funeral service bills. One version of this is requiring a fancy casket even when performing a direct cremation.
- **Fraudulent Anti-Aging Products.**
- **Telemarketing.** Fake charities, especially following a natural disaster, and fake accident ploys are common.
- **Internet Fraud.** Pop-up browser windows that simulate virus-scanning software are aimed at fooling people into buying fake anti-virus software or downloading a virus. Also common are email “phishing” scams that ask you to update your information.
- **Investment Schemes.**
- **Homeowner / Reverse Mortgage Scams.** Offers to reassess the tax value of your property, for a fee, are a scam that offers lower tax bills. Reverse mortgages, which can be a valid investment option, are being exploited by scammers.
- **Sweepstakes and Lottery Scams.** Having to pay fees for a prize is a tip-off that this is a scam.
- **The Grandparent Scam.** “Hi Grandma, do you know who this is?” and, “Don’t tell my parents, they would kill me,” are tip-offs to the type of scam that has affected this area recently.

If you think something might be a scam your instincts are probably good. Always talk with others before committing to buying or sending money to a stranger. And if your grandchild says, “Don’t tell my Mom and Dad,” then Mom and Dad probably should know and deserve a phone call.

It is distressing to think that a generation of people who have done so much to contribute to this world have become the targets of scammers and thieves. If you would like more information please consider talking with our Parish Nurse, Carolyn Gaylord (757-645-2349 or cgaylord3@gmail.com), as she is current on these problems. ❀



Birthdays

7 Bill Small	19 Mary Brittain
7 De Fehrenbach	20 Carol Hearn
9 Luke Barnes	22 Daniel Zoellner
11 Mike Willoughby	23 Dal Bailey
11 Marcia Kirkpatrick	24 Carol Smith
11 Collin Koob	24 Betty Somloi
11 Aubree Koob	24 Adam Otstot
12 Merri Kelly	26 Carol Fraize
13 Ambler Loving	28 Janet McConaughy
13 Lauris Zeni	28 Amber Deal
13 Brian Hanlon	29 Brian Manning
16 Chuck Jundt	

Anniversaries

5 Christine & Brian Hanlon
6 Mary Jo & Doug Smith
20 Lauren & Colby Bonine
24 Lucy & John Rothnie
28 Margene & Dave Hartsough
30 Karen & John Dutro

Did we miss your big day? If your birthday or anniversary is this month and you are not listed above, please send the information to Nuggets@hickoryneck.org



(02/28/13)

YTD Budget Income	\$68,207.00
YTD Actual Income	\$65,388.90
YTD Budget Expense	\$71,365.38
YTD Actual Expense	\$71,343.14

The shortest month brought less than expected income. Non-pledge and loose plate showed healthy increases in February, but pledge income was low by \$3,900, undoubtedly due to waiting for income tax refunds? Expenses were close enough to call them even for the month and year-to-date. Bottom line, however, is that we finished in the red by \$5,954. Thankfully, March has five Sundays including Easter.

You will be pleased to know that Lake Hickory Neck is no more! The new drain has been put in and the distribution line has been laid. After a couple downpours, the problem seems to be solved. Additionally, the gravel walkways from the Historic Chapel to the New Chapel have been improved. Lest you are thinking, how could the Vestry approve such an expense considering the budget for this year, be assured that this project was a capital expense funded from the Davenport Fund.

Having just passed through the Vernal Equinox, the tilling of the soil has started for another year. Just as the newly planted seeds spring to life, so may our own lives find new life and happiness during a joyous Eastertide. As we celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord, may a burst of Easter Light illuminate our Holy Hill, spreading new life and abundant peace to all.

Fred Boelt

Nuggets Staff

Editor: Jim Izzo

Spotlight Reporters: Mary Teale

Tori Otstot

Historical Reporter: Martha W. McCartney

Production: Rebecca Zoellner

Deadline for submissions is the 15th of each month. Items received after this date will be considered for publication in a future issue.

Please send submissions to nuggets@hickoryneck.org



Our Prologue

by Martha W. McCartney

Once Upon a Sunday Morning

In 1724 when Blisland Parish's rector, the Rev. Daniel Taylor, responded to a questionnaire the Bishop of London sent to Virginia clergy, he said that his parish was 30 miles long and had two churches. Mr. Taylor reported that he preached every Sunday, celebrated Holy Communion three times a year, and catechized during Lent. Because Blisland's houses-of-worship were situated at opposite ends of the parish, each Sunday he officiated at one church while the parish clerk, serving as a lay reader, conducted services at the other. Both men would have made lengthy commutes.

According to contemporary accounts, when Virginians arrived at church, they usually gathered in the churchyard, a lively, convivial place. There, they could socialize with neighbors and friends, exchange news, and talk business and politics. They also could read any public notices that were posted on the church's doors. Men sometimes smoked a pipe of tobacco while their sons or servants tended to their horses. Women usually gathered to chat while children seized the opportunity to romp and play, perhaps scrambling over tabletop tombstones or playing hide-and-seek. We know that dinner invitations often followed church services, evidence of the hospitality for which Virginians were famous.



Most colonial churchyards were walled and contained graves, benches, and a sundial. Some had horse (or mounting) blocks for the convenience of riders. There usually was a nearby water supply that provided refreshment to parishioners and their horses. Hickory Neck was no exception, for there was a spring directly across the road that passed by the church's main entrance. In summer, parishioners

could enjoy the cooling shade provided by the walnut trees, planted in 1738. A 100-foot-by-100-foot brick wall, built in 1742 around the oldest part of Hickory Neck, would have delimited the graveyard, but also protected it from errant livestock. Although we know relatively little about Hickory Neck's eighteenth century landscape, it probably included

some English boxwood and native plants, such as dogwood and redbud. In the graveyard there would have been periwinkle, a ground cover whose green, glossy leaves added richness to the landscape. It is likely that some flower roots, such as daffodils, hyacinths, tulips, crocuses, and grape hyacinths, also were present. Their colorful blossoms and resurgence each spring would have served as living reminders of the Resurrection's promise.



HNC

HICKORY NECK CHURCH
8300 Richmond Road
Toano, VA 23168
Tel (757) 566-0276
hickoryneck.org



Movie Night AT HICKORY NECK

This spring, parishioners are invited to enjoy fellowship and movies which provide food for thought (popcorn will also be available) on the second Friday of April, May, and June, starting at 6:30 p.m. Following each movie there will be time for discussion and exploration of the issues raised by the film. Slated for presentation are “The Way”, “The Englishman Who Went up a Hill but Came down a Mountain”, and “Tender Mercies”. Each film is both entertaining and conducive to interesting conversation. We look forward to seeing you there.