



Hickory Neck Nuggets



Confirmation 2012

The Right Reverend Herman Hollerith IV, Bishop of the Diocese of Southern Virginia, presided at the confirmation and reception of sixteen parishioners at Hickory Neck on December 2. Received into the church was Donna Culp. The confirmands included Ava Hope Chambers, Corder Liam Chambers, Benjamin Michael Delk, Lily Murray Dutro, Abigail Claire Hanlon, Elizabeth Hollis Mills, Robert Boswell Mills, Marguerite Strickler Newson, Tori Jacqueline Oxley Otstot, Delani Marie Snyder, Samantha Mozelle Snyder, Karen Elaine Small, John David Culp, Lauren Amanda Bridewell and Quinn Angelo Casheros. A reception for those received and confirmed, and their families and friends, followed the ceremony.



January Celebrations



Birthdays

1 Allyson Houser	15 Marie Wilkinson
3 Charles Hunter	16 Kathryn Bridewell
3 Quinn Casheros	17 Maggie Newson
4 Buddy Matthews	17 Anthony Vogt
4 Marilyn Hughes	18 Lauren Bridewell
5 Marta Zoellner	18 John Schaffner
6 Katrina Buckley	18 Rebecca Zoellner
7 Jim Ball	19 Rylie Baum
7 Kathryn Parsons	20 James Deal
8 Tom Martin	21 Robin Seeterlin
10 Dave Hartsough	24 Chris Casheros
12 Gayle Bangert	27 Jane O'Neal
12 Wanda Adsit	31 Mary Beth Collier
14 Mark Milakovic	

Anniversaries

4 Penny & Joe Orth
15 Ambler & George Loving
25 Laurie & Roland Todd
31 Phyllis & Don Faas

Bread for the Journey

Jim Izzo

The title of this book by Henri Nouwen refers to the spiritual nourishment it offers for each day of the year. The author has included 365 reflections/meditations on various topics. It's difficult to limit yourself to one reading per day, especially since the passages are arranged thematically, but no matter how many or in what order you read Nouwen's writings, you will find whatever you're looking for.

The following excerpts are from passages among the January entries:

1 – "Let's not be afraid to receive each day's surprise, whether it comes to us as sorrow or as joy."

2 – "Joy is hidden in sorrow and sorrow in joy. Both are the parents of our spiritual growth."

6 – "We have very little control over what happens in our lives, but we have a lot of control over how we integrate and remember what happens. It is precisely these spiritual choices that determine whether we live our lives with dignity."

8 – "The art of living is to enjoy what we can see and not complain about what remains in the dark."

17 – "We will never find our vocations by trying to figure out whether we are better or worse than others. We are good enough to do what we are called to do. Be yourself."

18 – "Letting our aloneness grow into solitude and not into loneliness is a lifelong struggle. It requires conscious choices about whom to be with, what to study, how to pray, and when to ask for counsel."

23 – "Community is the fruit of our capacity to make the interests of others more important than our own."

Vestry Highlights

The monthly Vestry meeting took place November 20th in the Wilkinson Center. Fred Boelt, Treasurer, informed the group that our October income was under budget at \$6,908.80, while October expenses were over budget \$3,336.40, leaving the budget in the red for the month of October at (\$13,631.10). Fred informed the vestry that we are still in the black YTD at \$12,401.88.

The Vestry was provided a Parish Life ministry report by Sue Dugan. Sue's report noted that Parish Life was responsible for eight events, including Fr. Michael's 10 year anniversary reception, the Easter reception and egg hunt, Sunday School Recognition Sunday, and a welcome reception for the McQueen family. Coffee hour continues to run smoothly and the Kitchen Helpers continue to keep the kitchen neat. Sue noted that this is a wonderful team, but they always need help, especially with coffee hour.

Under new business, the Vestry approved the 2013 Budget, noting that modifications would need to be made after missing pledges are received.

The meeting was adjourned. The date of the next regular Vestry meeting is March 13th.

The Opportunity to Worship

Martha W. McCartney

In 1607, when the first European colonists planted their settlement on Jamestown Island, they had a very short commute to church, for there was one within their fort. However, settlement spread quickly and opportunities for corporate worship were few and far between. Incoming governor, Sir George Yeardley, who arrived in 1619, was ordered to see that churches and glebes were established in each of the colony’s four corporations. Because navigable waterways served as the colony’s main highways, Virginia’s earliest church buildings almost always were constructed on the banks of rivers or small streams. Churchgoers usually commuted great distances, often by boat.

As time went on, Virginia planters’ tendency to settle miles apart continued to confound the clergy. In 1661 the Rev. Roger Green declared that the colonists lived like “Hermits . . . dispersedly and scatteringly seated upon the sides of Rivers.” In frustration, he said that their preference for rural living made it impossible for them to “make their due and constant attendance upon the publick worship and Service of God.” Some parishes were vast in size, embracing

entire counties. In an attempt to meet outlying parishioners’ needs, vestries sometimes constructed so-called chapels-of-ease in what were considered convenient locations.

Blisland Parish, which had come into existence by October 1653, encompassed a vast and sprawling territory. Its boundaries extended from the mouth of Skimino Creek, westward for an indefinite distance, and in a northerly direction as far as the York and Mattaponi Rivers. The location of Blisland Parish’s first church remains a mystery and it is uncertain whether the parish had one or more chapels-of-ease. In 1724 the Rev. Daniel Taylor of Blisland Parish informed the Bishop of London that his parish was 30 miles long and had two churches. Although we know that the parish’s “upper church,” built in 1703, was at the head of Warrany Creek, the location of the parish’s “lower church” is uncertain. It wasn’t until 1734 when Blisland Parish’s vestry decided to build a new “lower church” that Hickory Neck Church was erected on some donated land beside a well traveled road that extended up the James-York Peninsula: the forerunner of Routes 60 and 30.



(As of 11/30/12)

YTD Budget Income	\$371,226.38
YTD Actual Income	\$368,059.29
YTD Budget Expense	\$370,352.14
YTD Actual Expense	\$359,168.93

Compared to October receipts, November income improved but was still a bit under budget. Thankfully, expenses for the month were also under budget, and year-to-date, we are in the black by \$8,890. After an extra payment in the amount of \$7,500 on the principal of our loan and our regular monthly payment, the balance is \$316,614 as of December 1st.

We received \$256.18 from the Ruby Tuesday Community Give-Back program which will go toward debt reduction, and we also received \$62.85 from the Good Search program which has been added to our Pastoral Care Fund. The final accounting for Fall Festival has been completed with a net of \$13, 969 plus \$208 from the Youth raffle, giving us \$14, 177 toward outreach assis-

tance in 2013. The loose plate offering, \$302.00, received during the Bishop’s visit has been forwarded to the Diocese to be added to the Bishop’s Discretionary Fund.

As we pass through Advent, culminating with Christmas, we move toward the New Year. Like any “new” experience, we may have apprehensions about what lies ahead. Financially, I have great faith in our parish. As Epiphany approaches, just as the wise men were guided by the star over Bethlehem, we, too, will be guided to keep our “star” shining brilliantly over our Holy Hill. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Fred Boelt, Treasurer



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Hickory Neck Happenings



A new Bishop's bench was dedicated on December 2nd. Crafted of mahogany by Tony Casanave and decorated with a needlepoint design by Hope Brans, the bench will be used by the Bishop on occasions such as confirmation which include the laying on of hands. The gift was given in memory of Emma "Babe" Transue.



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 **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.

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