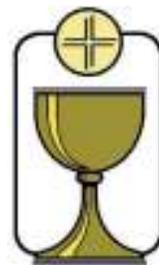
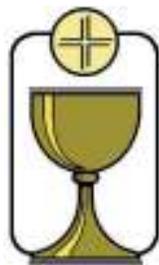
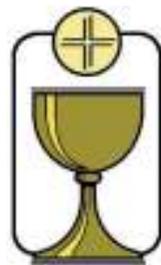




Hickory Neck Nuggets

November 2013

Three Services & a Party



By The Reverend Michael L. Delk

NOVEMBER WILL FEATURE THREE SPECIAL LITURGIES, on the 1st, 3rd, and 28th, and our annual parish celebration, on the 17th. Let's go through them by the numbers.

FRIDAY THE 1ST IS ALL SAINTS' DAY, one of the five great feasts of the Church, along with Christmas, the Epiphany, Easter, and Pentecost. Unlike the other great feasts, when we celebrate how God is manifest to the world through Jesus Christ or the Holy Spirit, All Saints' Day honors how God has worked through ordinary people like us. During our Eucharist, which starts at 7 p.m. in the Historic Chapel, we'll each have an opportunity to light a candle or two in memory of those we have loved and lost. So All Saints' Day is about healing grief and celebrating how God is present to us through other people—and present to other people through us.

ON SUNDAY THE 3RD, WE WILL HOLD A SERVICE OF

REPENTANCE AND HEALING FOR THE SIN OF RACISM.

This experience of worship was mandated by Diocesan Council in February of 2013 as a way for us to grapple annually with the fact that racism sadly still exists, causing harm to human relationships and societies, resulting in great violence and injustice. The Resolution passed by Council requires every congregation in the Diocese of Southern Virginia to hold such a liturgy during the octave of All Saints' Day, octave being Church-mumble for some time between November 1st and 8th. I chose to do this on a Sunday so that as many people as possible could experience it. Low attendance for weeknight liturgies shows how those can be difficult to attend for many.

AUGMENTING OUR WORSHIP WILL BE A SHORT SERIES OF DISCUSSIONS, the first four Sundays of November, during our Adult Forum at 10:15 a.m., when we can reflect prayerfully

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Angel Tree

By Nancy Snyder

This year, as in years past, we will be supporting the Salvation Army. In mid-November, our Angel Tree will be in the New Chapel Narthex with tags having an individual child's name on each one describing what that child wishes. Please make sure that the Angel Tree Tag is attached to the package when returned. The last date for return of the Angel Tree items is December 9th. The Salvation Army asks that the gifts be unwrapped because of safety issues, but you may include wrapping paper with your gifts.

Please understand that these may be the only gifts this child will receive for Christmas so you will want to provide that child with an outfit or two and some toys. If the cost is prohibitive, you may want to join with one or two other families to provide for one Angel.

The Salvation Army has asked me to make sure there is a record of each Angel that is

adopted from the Tree. In order to do that, it is very important that each person or persons who adopt an Angel fill out the information on the note pad which will be at the base of the Angel tree because this is the only record anyone will have of who has "adopted" which child. It is also necessary that all items be returned to the church instead of taking the package to the Salvation Army, since a new procedure has been instituted by the Salvation Army and there will be a need to add some information by the coordinator after the packages are returned to the church.

Please help our needy children in the Williamsburg/Toano area so that they too will have that special sparkle in their eyes come Christmas morning!

If you have any questions – either call me at (804)557-3175 or email me at nansteve13@cox.net



Sign-up sheets for the weekly **House Church** gatherings during Pentecost are posted in the Narthex.

- Hickory Neck will again benefit from your enjoyment of fresh **Florida citrus fruit** this winter. Beginning Monday and Tuesday, **November 4th and 5th** you can place your order for pick up Wednesday, November 13th. Order between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. on the 4th and 5th by calling Steve or Nancy Snyder at (804) 557-3175 or calling (757) 741-8776 and leaving a message. Orders can be emailed to hncfruit@cox.net Flyers are available in the Narthex for the selection of fruit offered or contact the Snyders for more information

- 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.

Stewardship Ingathering, November 3rd and 10th

By The Reverend Michael L. Delk

Every year, we ask every parishioner to make a non-binding pledge that gives us an indication of your giving intentions for the upcoming year. The primary motive of giving is gratitude to God, and the principal result of giving is joy. However, without pledges, we cannot prepare realistically for ministry in 2014. Your gift helps Hickory Neck pursue our mission. Thus, on Sunday, November 3rd and 10th, at one of the Eucharists you attend, we encourage you to place a completed pledge card in the alms basin during the Offertory or in the baptismal font on your way to receive Communion. These pledges will be handled with great confidentiality, and the Vestry will use the sum of the information they contain to pass a ministry budget for 2014 that will be presented to the parish for ratification at our Annual Parish Meeting on December 8th.

We like to receive pledge cards during worship, because our weekly Sabbath worship reminds us of God's blessings: past, present, and future. The ministry of Hickory Neck, which blesses so many people in so many ways, needs funds to function properly. As we have been blessed, so shall we bless: Giving Hands, Grateful and Generous Hearts.

Even if your financial circumstances prevent you from making a monetary offering in 2014, we request that you

complete a pledge card with a zero after the dollar sign. This is helpful information to have for planning purposes. Nobody privy to this information will judge you. With pastoral discretion, we will contact people who haven't returned a pledge card by November 10th, purely for the purpose of discerning your intentions so that the Vestry can set the most realistic ministry budget possible for the year ahead.

As you prayerfully choose how much to give God in 2014, challenge yourself.



Where does your gift to God compare to other expenses? What percentage of your income do you contribute toward our common mission? Consider an incremental increase in what you offer. For instance, the median annual income in James City County is about \$80,000, according to the most recent census data, so let's use that number for our calculations. A tithe on that amount would be \$8,000, but not many people tithe. It's hard. We live in an expensive part of the world. The average pledge at Hickory Neck is just over \$3,200, which represents 4% of \$80,000. A half-percent increase would equal \$400, about a dollar a day. One way to strive toward tithing is to increase giving incrementally over a series of years. There's a helpful chart for a wide range of incomes printed in the stewardship packet we distributed the week of October 20th. Refer to that resource.

If you can't be in worship on November 3rd or 10th, feel free to drop your pledge card by the office, mail it to the parish at 8300 Richmond Road, Toano, VA 23168, or scan your pledge card and e-mail the image to our Parish Administrator, Hope Brans, at hbrans@hickoryneck.org. I hope to see you, though, as we make our common commitment together in worship, advancing our mission to bring the light of Christ's Gospel to our community.

Continued on page 5

Saraband

By Sarah Ford Bland

HYMN: a song of praise or adoration of God. (*Apel, Harvard Dictionary of Music*)

We ALL have our favorite hymns! Besides beloved seasonal ones, such as for Christmas and Easter, most of us have hymns we cherish because of their connection with important events in our lives. Music's powerful influence on our memories, especially when set to beautiful texts, cannot be overestimated. What hymns hold particular meaning for you?

There are 3 hymns that will always have a special place in my heart. Growing up a Southern Baptist, I looked forward to that Sunday when, at the close of a service, I would come forward to profess my faith in Christ. On the day I made my decision, the hymn that was sung as I walked down the aisle was "I Surrender All." A few years later, when I was a student at Westminster Choir College, my taste in church music changed. At opening convocation my freshman year, 400 faculty and students sang "Come, Labor On," accompanied by the powerful pipe organ. The music and words were deeply moving, and I had NEVER heard singing like that! During my college years I also fell in love with "Praise

My Soul, the King of Heaven." Composer John Goss's original setting, a different harmonization for each of its four stanzas, is in *The English Hymnal*, a required text for my hymnody class. Ten years later I chose this for the bridesmaids' processional in my wedding.

Do you ever find yourself spontaneously singing a particular hymn? One summer morning while watering my garden, I became aware I was humming a catchy melody but didn't know what it was. Finally, the first line of the words came to me. I realized it was "Songs of Thankfulness and Praise", a hymn I had learned when I subbed one Sunday at Bruton Parish. This is still my gardening song, along with "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing," set to the tune "Richmond" rather than the more familiar "Azmon."

Many hymns have stories, and many of our "stories" have hymns associated with them. I've shared a few of mine with you. I'd love to hear what some of yours are!



Stewardship from page 4

As for our offerings of Time & Talent, what happened to those? This year, we decided to separate our gift of Treasure from our contribution of Time & Talent, because both gifts are so important, they deserve solitary treatment. In January, we will distribute a guide to the ministries of Hickory Neck, which will explain what each ministry does, why each ministry is important, and how you can get involved. We will also have a Ministry Fair in January, with booths staffed by people already active in our various ministries, so that you can talk to them about their experience and how meaningful engaging in a particular ministry can be. I'll be writing another article for the January edition of the Nuggets to explain more about that. In the meantime, though, I look forward to our Ingathering on November 3rd and 10th, as we square away that aspect of our holy work. ❁

NOVEMBER



CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

2 Dorothy Kirk	18 Terri Lensenmayer
4 Aaron Small	19 Nancy Geddes
6 Bonnie Manning	20 Don Faas
7 Mayes Mathews	22 Margene Hartsough
7 Penny Schumaker	23 Robin Eno
9 Barbara Johnson	23 Ray Kindley
11 Brooke Byrd	24 Debbie Coles
12 Henry McQueen	24 Karly Casanave
13 Caroline Turner	28 Stephanie Delk
16 Frank Somloi	29 Nancye Morris
17 Ashley Ferguson	29 Toni Small

Anniversaries

1 Susan & Dennis Gardner
4 Mary & Bill Teale
9 Lynn & Bert Geddy
30 Judy & Mark Kintner

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



(09/30/13)

YTD Budget Income	\$309, 431.50
YTD Actual Income	\$330,111.57
YTD Budget Expense	\$323, 012.73
YTD Actual Expense	\$309,109.47

Five Sundays and generous parishioners kept us in the black for September as well as year to date. In addition to regular income, we are now pulling funds from the earlier contributions escrowed for the Minister of Music position. If the numbers above seem skewed, they reflect some mid-year budget adjustments as well as additional designated income. The value of our Davenport Fund increased in the third quarter by \$4,153, bringing that fund total to \$67,957 as of September 30th.

As you read this, you have recently received the 2014 stewardship packet. By now you have discovered that this campaign is about treasure. We will have a Ministry Fair in January and ask for your Time and Talent gifts then. Each of these categories is distinct, and your contributions in both areas are equally important to the life of the parish.

We will have an in-gathering of pledge on Sunday, November 3rd. As your treasurer, I have to prepare a budget to be presented to the Vestry on November 19th and to the parish at our annual meeting on December 8th. The timely return of these gifts makes this process much easier. Please prayerfully consider what you can offer back to God in return for his many blessings. It is not each individual gift, but rather the sum total from giving hands, grateful and generous hearts that enriches our lives and sustains light and life on our Holy Hill.

Fred Boelt





Our Prologue

by Martha W. McCartney

The Registers of Colonial Virginia's Parish Churches

In accord with laws that were enacted in 1661, the clerks of colonial Virginia's parishes recorded the dates on which parishioners' births, deaths, baptisms, and marriages occurred. They also made note of the dates on which parishioners' slaves were born and baptized. Slaves' dates of birth were especially important because the enslaved, who were considered chattel property, became taxable once they attained a certain age. A parish's vital records were supposed to be submitted to the county court on a regular basis, for Virginia's State Church enjoyed quasigovernmental status.

Surviving parish registers reveal that the overwhelming majority of the slaves baptized by the clergy were infants who were only a few weeks old. Adult slaves and young children were baptized from time to time, perhaps because they had become interested in adopting their owners' faith or had been converted. Slave baptisms almost always took place on Sunday, traditionally a day the enslaved were given relief from their chores. It was not uncommon for a slaveholder to present two or more slaves for baptism simultaneously.



No eyewitness accounts of slave baptisms have come to light, but we know that Virginia clergy would have used the rite prescribed by the Church of England and set down in the Book of Common Prayer. We also know that a slaveholder typically was called upon to serve as the baptismal candidate's sponsor. By the early eighteenth century, the Bishop of London had begun urging the clergy to convert the enslaved to Christianity, sealing their covenant with the rite of baptism. In fact, in 1724 when the Bishop sent a list of queries to the colony's clergy, he asked how successful they had been in Christianizing slaves. Most Virginia clergy admitted that they had made very little headway, citing the language barrier and resistance on the part of slave owners. The Bishop of London was persistent, however, and by the mid-eighteenth century, many Virginia clergy had begun baptizing infant slaves on a regular basis. By that time, growing numbers of the enslaved had become interested in the evangelical or "New Light" religious groups, which promised believers heavenly rewards, including freedom. The bulk of Blisland Parish's colonial vestry records have survived, but the parish's register has not. ❁



Annual Parish Meeting Scheduled for Sunday, December 8th at 10 a.m.

By The Reverend Michael L. Delk

You may have looked at the title to this article and thought, "Oh, how dreadful!" If so, I congratulate you on reading this far. Allow me to assure you that our annual parish meeting is actually quite informative and enjoyable. The principal part of it consists in electing three persons to serve three-year terms on our Vestry, our chief lay leadership body, and three persons to serve one-year terms as our parish's representatives in the Councils of the Diocese. You can read more about our candidates in this edition of the Nuggets.

We will also receive a presentation of the 2014 operating budget from our Treasurer, Fred Boelt, and I'll offer a short review of our ministry in 2013, while looking forward to the future as well.

This is our opportunity to participate in the democratic choices, inspired by the Holy Spirit, that help make The Episcopal Church special. We can reflect on the year past, as we prepare for the year to come, with satisfaction and excitement.

Every year, we have between 80 and 120 people present, an exceptionally good rate of involvement and a solid witness on how meaningful (and painless) attending this meeting can be. Of course, we'll have something suitable available during this hour for our children, and absentee ballots are available for those unable to attend due to physical impediment. Simply contact the parish office at 566-0276.



Vestry Candidates



Linda Becker

Being a member of Hickory Neck Church means family and growing. Having a church family has been a gift since childhood. Admittedly, there were a few lean church-attendance years during early adulthood. The birth of a child and desiring for him the same confident faith I learned in childhood brought regular church attendance back to my routine. When Pete and I moved

from our church in York County to Toano in 2000, Hickory Neck opened its heart to me. It continues to receive me in whatever state I am in at the moment. For that I am grateful. I seek intellectual confirmation of my faith and spirituality. Our phenomenal leaders

and various teachers continue to move me forward in my spiritual journey in every class or small group study I have attended. In my time at HNC, I have taught Sunday School and Vacation Bible School. I have sung in the choir and participated in foyer groups. I have brought food for coffee hour and the Sunday night Youth Group. I participated in Cursillo #122 and I have managed the church nursery. I feel that I have taken away much more than I have given.

To be a leader is to be a servant. Jesus came to serve and reminded his disciples, "for even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve..." Mark 10:45. As a vestry member I would be a servant desiring to worship God and serve his people.



Larry Kelley

I grew up in Spokane, Washington, where I attended St. Patrick's Elementary and Gonzaga Preparatory High School. I was the neighborhood entrepreneur; I mowed lawns, shoveled snow, delivered newspapers and was a bus boy at a local restaurant to fund my hobbies, which included snow skiing and scuba diving.

In 1976, I joined the U.S. Navy where I received training in Submarine Nuclear Power Operations and Maintenance. During my career, I was stationed on both the east and west coasts, as well as Hawaii. I retired from the Navy in 1994 and settled in Virginia. I currently work for DuPont in Richmond and have been there 17 years.

I met Lynn at the Lanexa Post Office, where she was employed, and somehow convinced her that I was the one for her. We were married by Father Michael in 2003. I have three children, Lynn has two and between us, we have eight grandchildren.



John Rothnie

I was born in the State of Washington at Fort Lewis and later moved to Arlington, Va. when my father was transferred to the Pentagon. I am the third of four children. I spent my grade school and high school years in Arlington attending Catholic schools and church. Six years ago my wife and I moved to Providence Forge and started attending Hickory Neck soon thereafter.

We were immediately touched by the warm reception extended by all church members and the spiritually rewarding service. We knew that Hickory Neck was the church home for us.

I retired from Dominion (Virginia Power) in 2008 after 36 years of service. It seemed that I spent my career relocating up and down Interstate 95 involving 13 positions. I ended my career in Richmond where I was the Director of Billing and Credit for Dominion. During my employment I was afforded a number of opportunities for growth thereby enhancing my organizational, project management, teamwork and leadership skills. I believe these attributes will prove of value to Hickory Neck should I be elected to the Vestry.

As a member of Hickory Neck Church I am continually reminded of

Early in our dating life, Lynn and I decided to start attending church together. It only took one of Father Michael's passionate sermons to convince us that Hickory Neck was our new church home. Since becoming a member of Hickory Neck, I have sliced, diced and cooked for the Fall Festival, am on the cooking team for the men's breakfasts, am a member of the Cemetery Committee and on the Healing Ministry Team. I have attended Cursillo and completed Education for Ministry (EFM.)

What does being a member of Hickory Neck mean to me? Being a member of Hickory Neck has meant a lot of growth. I feel I am in a welcoming and safe environment where I have space to question and learn, to grow spiritually, and form lasting relationships.

What do I feel I can contribute to Hickory Neck leadership? I currently have the time and energy to devote to serving on Hickory Neck's vestry. My life experiences have taught me both discipline and flexibility. I think one of my greatest gifts is the ability to see different perspectives. I am enthusiastic about the opportunity to help ensure the light on the hill continues to shine brightly.

the attributes that make this church home to us; acceptance, warmth, love and welcome. The best example of this is during the past 2 years when our lives have been turned upside down following Lucy's surgeries and long recuperation period. The spiritual and material support that the congregation wrapped around us is unbelievable, or should I say so typical of our Hickory Neck family. To this day, we are asked how Lucy is feeling and if there is anything they can do for us.

With the help and support of many parishioners I have been the Co-chairperson and Chairperson for the 2010 and 2011 Fall Festivals. Both were successful events raising funds for the Outreach Ministry. I am a canteen driver and server for From His Hands, an Outreach project at Grove. Further I have been highly involved with the Building and Grounds Ministry for several years. If I am elected to serve on the Vestry I will use my training from the business world and my volunteer experiences at Hickory Neck to grow the congregation while maintaining the HNEC attributes we find so endearing.

My wife Lucy and I live in the Brickshire community at Providence Forge. We have three adult children, six grandchildren and one very spirited dog. I enjoy spending time with friends and family, playing golf, and photography.

Council Delegate Candidates



Carrol Bailey

Lauren. We knew then that we had found our new church home. We

I am Carrol Bailey and live in Colonial Heritage with my husband Dal. We have 5 children and 16 grandchildren. I have been an Episcopalian for 27 years, and have been very active in church since I was a child. Our previous church was St Paul's in Salem VA for 14 years, before we moved here in 2008. Our first visit to Hickory Neck was a reception for

had not even heard the first sermon but felt the friendship and a great parish family.

I enjoy being a member of Hickory Neck because it is an active group and I am willing to work and help others. This fosters development and more spiritual growth for me. After taking the confirmation class several years ago, I have felt a need to serve God by being more involved at Hickory Neck. I believe that I can represent Hickory Neck Church as a delegate to the Diocesan Council with my experience on the Vestry.



Fred Boelt

community. Over the years, I have been on Vestry several times, have been both Junior and Senior Warden, and have served on most of our committees. Additionally, I have been Treasurer on three different

I have been a member of Hickory Neck since 1982. At that time, we were a small mission church, and I have seen the transition from that point into the thriving parish that we are today. I have always felt the warmth of the friendship and caring concern that we have for each other, and enjoy all of the aspects of our faith-centered

occasions; most recently for the last eleven years. I feel that all of this has given me a great deal of insight into the functioning of our parish.

Having been a delegate to Council several times in recent years, I have gained a better understanding of the relationship between a parish and the Diocese. I have witnessed Bishop Hollerith's leadership move the Diocese forward over the past five years. The changes in policy and staff that he has implemented are now bearing fruit. The plans to move forward on a new centralized office will enhance the resources and programs available to the parishes. Given time, this will improve the wellbeing of the Diocese. I would like to witness and help with this process by representing Hickory Neck at Council.



Ann Cooper

the fun I have with my friends here, I have also been able to identify areas of my own life needing growth. There is always someone to help in serious times, as well as someone to help me in my times of need. I have learned much about prayer and the importance of centering prayer. I have also developed a habit of checking on reasons to be

Being a member of Hickory Neck is a joyful experience. Worshiping and sharing a Christian life with my fellow parishioners provides a path to a rewarding spiritual life for me. Our worship services, educational meetings, work projects and social events all support the opportunities that deepen my faith. Not only have I found joy in

grateful every day. At the top of my gratitude list is Hickory Neck. My picture of Hickory Neck is a group picture—all my fellow parishioners with whom I share this very gratifying Christian life.

I would like to represent Hickory Neck at Council. The information I receive broadens my knowledge and understanding of the way the church works at an administrative level and the effects of administrative planning on the local church. It is particularly meaningful to consider other churches' planning processes as we deal with serious social issues. The knowledge gained may help us as we make decisions for our church. We must take great care in how we address the issues in order to truly serve our members and to offer a place that provides guidance and support to current and future parishioners. For me, the best guide as we address issues and make decisions is attention to God's guidance through prayer.

Council Delegate Candidates



Dave Hartsough

I was born in Salem, Ohio, in 1947. After graduating from North Carolina State University with a BA in Economics, I went to naval flight training and received my wings in 1971. After a career in the Navy, I started new careers as both a manufacturer's representative and a college professor. My wife Margene and I enjoy travel, golf and music. She also likes

gardening, but I consider that work.

Starting to attend Hickory Neck in 2007 was like finding a home. My religious background has taken several twists and turns over my life time, but I now feel as though I am where I belong. Attending Hickory Neck made it easy for me to decide to join the Episcopal

Church in 2009. I like everything about Hickory Neck: the people, the service and the whole environment.

I continue to learn more about the Episcopal Church. While I have always had a strong grounding in my faith, I am hopeful that getting more involved in the church will aid me in my learning process. And of course, it is another way of serving.

Visions are always difficult. It would be good to see Hickory Neck grow and strengthen over the coming years. I would also like to see us as leaders in the local faith community. I am a big believer in ecumenical projects. Churches often stay in their own safe areas and are reluctant to work with others. We are all one faith and the more we work together the better. Finally, I hope that in the near future Hickory Neck will be a major player in ending homelessness in the Williamsburg area.



David Simmons

Hello, I am David Simmons, and I am offering my services to Hickory Neck as a candidate for delegate to the 2013/2014 Diocesan Council. My family and I have been members of the Hickory Neck Family for a little over seven years. I seek to continue to serve Hickory Neck as a delegate to Council because I believe that in order for the

Church to fulfill the work that Christ left for us, each member must find his calling and get involved. I believe being involved in my church means participating in activities within the life of my church beyond weekly worship. I believe that being a member of Hickory Neck means that we are part of one big family. At Hickory Neck, we join together in our worship of God and in love of our neighbor because we like what we see, hear, and feel when we are together. In

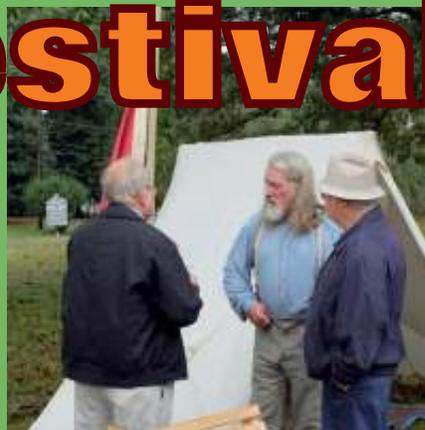
addition to my desire to be involved with the life of my church, I believe that by offering my service as a delegate to Council, I can gain a better understanding of my church and my diocese, and, hopefully, through this knowledge, I can work with Bishop Hollerith and the other members of Council to continue to guide our diocese as we strive to be a light unto the world through our ministries in the community. I feel that through the relationships I have made throughout the diocese, I can make a positive contribution on behalf of this Parish through my participation at Council. I will work to listen and understand issues at Council, and as one of the Parish's representatives, I will vote on matters in the manner that I feel the Parish and God want me to vote. Therefore, with the goal of helping, in whatever way possible, to guide the future of the Diocese of Southern Virginia, I offer my continued service to this Diocese and to the Hickory Neck family.



HNC

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Fall Festival 2013



This year's Fall Festival was dampened a bit by the weather, but over 700 hardy souls turned out to help us raise over \$8,000 for local charities. The Youth Group's 50/50 raffle provided a lucky winner with \$139, with the other \$139 going to Bacon Street, which provides services to young people and families affected by substance abuse and/or mental health issues.

Photos by Gary Harvey

