

# THE HANOVER HERALD

A newsletter for the people  
of Hanover Presbyterian Church,  
Wilmington, Delaware  
February 2012

## CELEBRATE



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FEBRUARY

5

FEBRUARY

12

FEBRUARY

19

FEBRUARY

26

### 2012's Theme: African-American Church Tradition:

### Past, Present, and Future

On these three Sundays, at 10 a.m. worship, a guest narrator will "paint the picture" of the world at that time, and we'll hear from a Saint about what was happening at Hanover. The theme will be further explored at the 11:45 a.m. adult education class on Feb. 5 and 19.

### GOSPEL VESPERS CONCERT, 4 P.M.



**20th Annual  
Soul Food  
Luncheon**  
Sunday, Feb. 12,  
after morning worship.  
Sign up Feb. 5 or call  
the church office

### Let Confirmation Ring!

Way back in September a joyous process got started. Three of our young people — Christina Bedford, Leandra Moore, and Devin Pulliam — began meeting every Sunday with youth leader Greg Harris and pastor Andy in the journey toward being confirmed. In that time there has been deep discussions and activities that have led to new insights and understanding for all. Each of the confirmands will have completed a statement of faith that they will present to the Session.

On Sunday, Feb. 19, we will joyfully add our congregational confirmation to the ones they have already received from God as they are received as members. Finally, they will lead worship that day as we focus on the future as a part of our Black History Month celebration. May God bless our young saints as they receive confirmation of their faith and their gifts.

### Stewardship Update

We have received a few more pledges since our report in the January Herald. We now have 52 pledges for \$146,422, or 91.5 percent of our pledge goal. This is positive news, and we are very grateful to those who have made a financial commitment to support our church and its vital mission and ministry.

If you have not yet pledged, please be one of those who will help push us over the top. Remember our pledge goal does not cover all the financial needs of Hanover. We still have to draw on reserves in order to pay all of the bills, so it is very important for us to receive our pledge goal of \$155,000 to be able to implement our current budget plan.

Every gift is valuable and every pledge to Hanover is a pledge supporting mission, because Hanover is mission. Each of our pledges is an example of God's love and justice in our lives and in our community.

## From the Pastor's Study

### A Month of Excitement

February will be a time to fasten your spiritual seatbelt. We're in for quite a ride! This month we recognize and celebrate African American spirituality, and its expression through the church. We will journey through time past (Feb. 5), time present (Feb. 12), and time future (Feb.19). Each week in worship a special narrator will share the larger picture of what was, is, and will be happening in the world. Then a Hanover Saint will offer personal thoughts related to that time. In the adult Discipleship classes after fellowship time additional Saints will share their experiences about Hanover and the world.

On Feb. 19 those who embody our hopes for the future, our youth, will lead us in worship. In addition we will have the joyous privilege of confirming and receiving into membership three of our young people who have been studying since September.

### Crew Members Needed for Boat Trip . . .

The Children's Sunday School class embarked on a new adventure in Scripture on Jan. 22. We are immersing ourselves in the story of Noah. In addition to scripture, each Sunday we will learn a little about animal/human dynamics in the ark by reading from Avril Rowlands' book, *Tales from the Ark*. We will also explore God's world and the animals that live in it and how we can take care of God's creation. The children will also be raising money for a Heifer Project animal so be on the lookout for how you can help them achieve their goal.

*Noah's Ark: Tales, Tails and Rainbows* is about Scripture, stories, service projects, crafts and fun—all great ways to learn more about God's love for us and God's creation.

Sound like fun? We are looking for folks who would like to read the opening story each week. Each chapter is about 4-5 short pages. After the reading, you could join the adult Discipleship class or stick around for all the fun. We look forward to having different story-tellers open up our sessions! Just let Nancy Long know of your interest and she'll sign you up for a Sunday.

Our two great traditions, the 20th Soul Food Luncheon (Feb. 12, after worship) and the Gospel Vespers (Feb. 26, 4 p.m.), will call us together to eat, laugh, rejoice, and remember.

In the midst of our Black History month events and activities we will also turn the seasonal page and enter Lent, which begins on February 22, Ash Wednesday. More information about special services, projects, and classes will be coming. May our 40-day sojourn into the wilderness be blessed; that there we would become closer to God.

Finally, I offer this thought. As distinct and diverse as the journey feels, a month like this one models the larger journey of life and faith. Our celebrations and services reflect our days, our seasons, and our lives. Let us praise God for this great variety of activities, knowing that they reflect God's presence in each step of our journey together. May Christ be the seatbelt that provides our spiritual safety and stability.

*Peace, Andy*



## Treasurer's Corner

Our 2011 deficit of \$26,000 was \$19,000 less than we budgeted and \$15,000 less than 2010!

Lower than budgeted 2011 contributions were offset by memorial contributions and income from the rental of the C.E. building. Even though contributions were below budget, they were still greater than in 2010!

Lower heating and electricity costs, a \$4,500 reduction in the Faith and Action budget, lower pastors' continuing education and travel expenses, and other lower personnel costs also reduced the deficit.

Heating costs were lower as we discontinued the gas budget plan with Delmarva and received a credit in December for money already collected from us in anticipation of 2012 heating season costs. This credit also covered our January, 2012 heating costs, so both 2011 and 2012 heating expense will be unusually low. Future heating and electricity expense will reflect actual usage.

In 2011 we received \$2,241 toward our \$7,765 Per Capita expense. This was less than the \$3,000 we budgeted, but more than we received in 2010. 2012 Per Capita is \$28.18 per member, and our 2012 expense will be \$5,946. Hanover members are encouraged to contribute toward this expense.

The Christmas Joy offering totaled \$888, \$87 less than in 2010.

Ray Kirkpatrick has again offered to audit the 2011 church books.

The Finance Committee will update the 2012 budget for Session's review in February.

Please contact me if you have any questions about our finances. —  
*Tom Baker*

### Coffee Hour Hosts

If you enjoy the time of fellowship after morning worship — also known as the coffee hour — you may want to volunteer to serve as host or hostess. Just sign up in the Church School Hall. See Ellen Casson if you have questions.

## 2011 UnGifts Report

Faith in Action raised over \$1900 for worthy projects during the Christmas season through Hanover's UnGifts project. UnGifts choices this year were the Hanover Food Pantry, Kiva microloans, New Castle County Habitat for Humanity, Heifer, and the Delaware Center for Horticulture.

Twenty-four households or individuals (including three of Hanover's children, who donated to the Heifer project) purchased UnGifts to pass on to friends or family; the average gift per project was \$50 and the average amount per giver (not counting the \$1 from each of the children) was \$80. Close to half gave to more than one project. This year's most popular project was Hanover's own Food Pantry, which received almost \$750 and was selected by 16 of those who purchased UnGifts. Thanks to all who participated!

## Female Harmony Society Meets April 28

The annual Female Harmony Society meeting will be on Saturday, April 28 at 9:30, at Hanover. This is a change from the previous date in May due to schedule conflicts. If anyone is interested in knowing more about the Society, and possibly joining us, Lorie Tudor, Ellen Casson, Becky Arnold, Nancy Long, and Nancy Palmer would be happy to talk with you.

## Merris Honored

Hanover member Merris Hollingsworth, a psychologist and coordinator of the University of Delaware's Center for Counseling and Student Development, has received the Outstanding Training Director Award for 2011 by the Section for Supervision and Training of the Society of Counseling Psychology of the American Psychological Association.

## Focus Your Lenten Journey With Spirituality Corner

Remembering that Jesus spent 40 days in the desert, this Lent, the Discipleship Team encourages you to find seven items you would most want to take if you were traveling 40 days into a desert — whether literally, figuratively or spiritually. Choose a piece of Lenten fabric; a cloth that you feel best captures how you feel about entering Lent.

Find a place in your house that these seven items might remain over the Lenten season and place them on your Lenten fabric. Please send a photo of your sacred space/items with an explanation of their meaning to you to Nancy Long at [nanlowlong@yahoo.com](mailto:nanlowlong@yahoo.com) or to the Church Office and we will display on a bulletin board. To see examples of other sacred spaces go to <http://spirit2go.blogspot.com/2008/02/resource-1.html> which is the place where this idea was found. Thank you to SPIRITUALITY2GO!



## SACRED SPACE

## Church of the Covenant Mission: EDGE Ministry

Following the model set last year by First & Central, the loose offering collected at our joint worship on New Year's Day was committed to go to a local mission of Session's choosing. Elder Nancy Long suggested we choose a ministry of the Church of the Covenant as the recipient. The suggestion was met with enthusiastic approval, and Session voted to send the funds (\$160) to the Church of the Covenant for its EDGE Ministry, which serves the local community in Edgemoor Gardens (Edgemoor Gardens Empowerment).

This ministry is reaching out to Covenant's neighbors in Edgemoor Gardens; serving to inspire, empower and equip residents to transform their lives and their community.

Beginning in February, Church of the Covenant will open its doors two afternoons a week to provide a free after-school program for Edgemoor children in grades K-5 who attend school at Mount Pleasant Elementary, directly adjacent to the church building. EDGE: After-School for Kids offers a safe place for kids to go on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons (3:30-5:30) to have fun with their friends, get their homework finished and learn and build social relationships through Christian-based stories, music, art and drama.

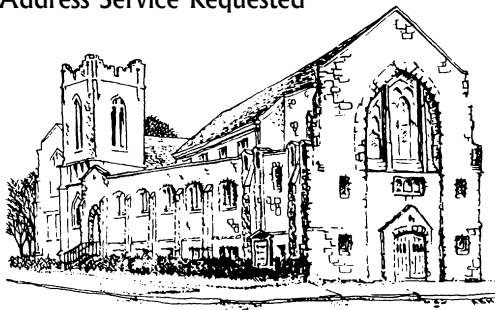
Volunteer helpers are needed. These are exciting times for Church of the Covenant as its members "step out of the conventional box" and implement and explore new ministry opportunities for their church within the local community. To find out more about how you can get involved, please contact Ginny Jones, lay pastor, at 521-7039 or call the Covenant church office at 764-9007.

## C.E. Building Use

This spring, New Directions Early Head Start will again be using two rooms in the education wing of the church for their home based socialization program. We have four dates scheduled for March. This program is based at the University of Delaware and it is designed for children and their parents to come together with child-care professionals and develop positive ways to play and interact. The focus is on children from 1 month to 3 years of age.

Hanover will also be hosting two work groups coming to Wilmington to support the important services of Habitat for Humanity. In March, we will host approximately 30 students from the University of Pittsburgh, and in April, we will host another 30 students and advisors from a high school in New Jersey.

Hanover Street Presbyterian Church  
1801 N. Jefferson Street  
Wilmington, DE 19802  
(302) 658-5114  
Address Service Requested



Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Wilmington, DE  
Permit #45



*Here are some of the Hanover members and friends who gathered on Martin Luther King Day to work on a Habitat for Humanity home construction project on Lamotte Street in Wilmington. They can tell you all about installing fiberglass insulation, hanging drywall, and other skills — including staying warm.*

## Staying Connected

There are many Hanover members who are no longer able to attend church at Hanover, or get to other activities at the church, but that does not mean they can't still be connected. One example of someone who stays connected to her Hanover family is Lillian Heiks. Lillian is living at Jenner's Pond near West Grove, Pa.

She likes to stay busy and she enjoys reading and knitting. Lillian is knitting a variety of things, some of which are being saved for our Super Sale. Some of her hats and scarves have gone to needy folks who come to our clothing closet. Lillian is 92 years old. She and husband, Bob, began attending Hanover in the 1950s. We miss seeing Lillian in church, but it is wonderful to know that she is staying connected to her Hanover family. — Ellen Casson

## Super Sale Planning Begins

We have the date — Saturday, May 5, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.! It is never too early to start thinking about treasures you may have around that need a

new home. Set them aside, and before you know it, the time will be here to bring them to the church. Remember that all your donations to the Super Sale will help Hanover and go to a good cause. Mention it to your neigh-

bors, who may have some nice things to donate, or who may want to come to the sale. And don't forget the small things like jewelry, which is always popular at the sale. There is planning underway. All are invited to be a part of

the planning, or if you just have an idea, please pass it along. As always, we are going to need many volunteers. See Becky Arnold, Ruth Howell, or Ellen Casson, if you have questions or want to volunteer.