

THE HANOVER HERALD

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

Hanover Elects Officers

Hanover's members elected elders and deacons for the coming year at the annual congregational meeting Dec. 4, and adopted revised bylaws.

Three elders and three deacons were elected to three-year terms, rather than electing four as in recent years, reflecting a decision to reduce the size of the Session and board of deacons to nine members each.

Here are brief introductions to the newly elected officers:

Session

Andy Moore is a fairly new member of Hanover. He first began attending Hanover with his mother, Jo Moore. He is a much-appreciated tenor in the choir and has been a great help with maintenance projects completed in the church. He is an architect and is married to Mary Auld. They have two sons, Michael and Jeremy.

Name an aspect of Hanover and **Nancy Long** has been a part of it, often heading it up... deacon, elder, church school teacher of all ages, church life, Women's Association, food pantry, Super Sale, choir, etc., etc. As if that's not enough church, Nancy is the secretary at Covenant Presbyterian Church and is a leader of Presbyterian Women's retreats.

Lorie Tudor is a long-time active member of Hanover. She has served often on the Session, chaired Faith in Action, JSCC, served on Pastor Nominating Committees, etc. She sings in several ensembles and teaches yoga. She is a retired social worker. She and her husband, Bill, live next door to Hanover.

Deacons

After filling a vacant deacon position for a partial year, **Cindy Tomevi** is now joining the board for a full term. She is an usher, greeter, church office volunteer, small group leader and "harasses Han-

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Dozens of Christmas cards were signed and sent to Hanover members during the annual Christmas dinner, a festive event that filled the Church School Hall.

'100 Talents' Project Sparks Creative Responses

New Castle Presbytery's challenge to its churches to use \$100 grants in a manner that exemplifies the message of the Parable of the Talents (Matthew 25:14-30) has been met in diverse and creative ways. Rev. Sara Holben reported at a recent Presbytery meeting that these small grants are having an impact around the world.

In addition to Hanover's choice to get involved with the Kiva micro-financing organization and contribute to loans to small business owners in economically struggling areas, Rev. Holben shared reports of "talents" going to missionaries, school supplies, neighborhood outreach, youth groups, and various seed money projects.

One church supported a library for a soup kitchen. Another used glass from former church windows to make crosses, which were sold to provide money for mission. Yet a third congregation used the funds to enable sewn items to go to a hospital in Mali. One group found mission opportunity almost in their own backyard, where new senior apartments have been built.

After the Christmas season Rev. Holben will begin featuring individual church's "100 Talents" stories in issues of Presbytery's online newsletter, "Midweek Musings". If you have access to e-mail, but haven't been reading the "Midweek Musings", maybe watching for the reports on all the things a church can do with \$100 will lure you to New Castle Presbytery's website (ncpresbytery.org) to check it out!

From the Pastor's Study

Following That Star

... they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

—Matthew 2:9

As you read this we will be, liturgically speaking, on the backs of camels. We will have been in the manger with Jesus, his weary parents, and the star-struck shepherds. Yet still ahead of us is the day of Epiphany, celebrating the arrival of the Magi to pay homage to the Christ. For the 12 days in between we are called to journey in faith seeking the Christ child following only the light of a star.

We enter another new year filled with the possibilities born within us in a manger. I offer the prayer that in 2012 our focus would remain fixed on the star that leads us to the Christ. Even more, let us be open to the endless variety of stars God sets before us. Let us heed the stars that we discover in the people who lead us to Christ. Let us see divine light in the moments that make God's reign real. Let us follow the divine guidance provided in the gifts we receive. And then let us allow our lights to shine with God's love through the gifts we return.

May God continue to richly bless our journey together in 2012; that it would deliver us safely to the place where we would set our treasure at the feet of our savior.

Gratitude and Grace

It has been a year since the great Hanover Christmas boiler caper. Anyone who took part in last year's traveling road show will remember the amazing hospitality we received from our friends at First and Central Church. We were offered their full space unconditionally for two worship services and a memorial service. One of the uplifting joys was worshipping together on the Sunday after Christmas Eve.

This year we will return the grace

and hospitality – not just to say thank you, but to celebrate our unity in belief, ministry and mission. On Sunday, Jan. 1 we will worship at 11 a.m. with the folks from First and Central Church. The service will be filled with music and reflection on the New Year, and will include sharing the promise of new life found in the bread and cup of communion. There will be adult study before the service (9:30 a.m.), but we will not hold our regular education groups after the service. We will, however, extend our welcome through a time of fellowship immediately after the service. May God bless that which binds us.

Another Special Sunday

In our worship service on January 8 we will celebrate the gift of leadership as we stand with elders and deacons who have answered the call to service. Having been elected and nominated by the congregation, we will install and ordain new officers for terms of up to three years each. To be installed as deacons: Maggie Alexander, Alice Cornelius, Jean Gross, Andrea McCoy-Carty, and George Turner. To be installed as elders: Nancy Long, Andy Moore, and Lorie Tudor. May God bless the gifts and service offered by our ruling elders and deacons!

Peace, Andy

Treasurer's Corner

Although pledge income is still expected to be about \$10,000 below budget due to the economy, Hanover's 2011 deficit is anticipated to be less than originally budgeted. The lower deficit is due to an unexpected non-pledged stock gift of \$5,000, \$5,600 in rents from the Christian Education building, and expense reductions (Faith in Action, organist, and electric and gas).

We recently installed a separate meter to monitor the gas usage by the C.E. building in anticipation of that building's use by tenants. Delmarva was unable to adjust our budgeted gas amount to include the two meters. Instead, it billed us the monthly budgeted gas amount for both Hanover buildings, about \$1,800, plus the actual cost of the gas used by the C.E. building. The only way to avoid this extra expense was to discontinue the budget plan. Since Delmarva had already billed us more under the budget plan than our actual costs to date we did not get a charge for electric and gas in December. In the future we will pay for actual gas and electrical usage.

In January, once the 2012 stewardship drive is complete, the Finance Committee will meet to recommend a final 2012 budget. So please get those pledges in!— Tom Baker

What We Are Worth: Stewardship Update

We are worth so much to God, to each other, and to our community. We've seen how, by working and giving together, our gifts are multiplied to provide great value through the presence of our church in the community. In a strong start to our pledge drive for 2012, we have so far received 46 pledges, for a total of \$128,402. This is more than 80 per cent of our financial goal! Some givers needed to reduce their pledge for next year, perhaps in a reflection of the times, while others were able to increase their pledge or keep it at the same level.

Every gift is valuable, and every gift shows the faith and strength of our members and friends in working together to provide for the spiritual growth and mission of the church, locally and far from home. If you would like to make a pledge for your giving in 2012, please see Jeff Long or Tim Arnold – additional pledge cards are available in church pews or in the office, or Jeff and Tim can assist you.



Officers Elected

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over people in general.”

Maggie Alexander grew up in Wilmington. She and her husband Allen have two children, Malinda and Geoffrey and 2 grandchildren, D’jango and Maracella. A retired reading specialist, Maggie volunteers at Maple Lane Elementary School. She was a member of West Presbyterian Church, where she was involved with the Sunday School.

Alice Cornelius is a native Delawarean and sixth generation Presbyterian who grew up at Red Clay Presbyterian Church. She holds an elementary education degree from the University of Delaware and serves on several nonprofit boards. She lives on Baynard Blvd. with two lovely cats and her husband, Ben.

Jean Gross’ compassion serves her well as a deacon. She is a long-time choir member and has baked oodles of cookies. Jean has been the coordinator of the food pantry, and when her daughters were young, she taught Sunday School and cared for children in the nursery. Along with her husband, Bob, Jean is instrumental in many of the successful fundraising events held for the Ministry of Caring.

Andrea McCoy is capably continuing as a deacon. She is a foster mother, works at the group home across the street from Hanover, and founded and runs an organization helping foster children who have aged out of the system to overcome the many hurdles they face in life.

George Turner is another one of Hanover’s many versatile members. George has gladly lent his time and talents in whatever capacity the church has asked of him. He currently organizes our Jeremiah Coffee Houses and is one of our volunteer secretaries in the office.

Alice Davis joined Hanover over 12 years ago when she and her husband, Tom, moved from Miami, and Tom became Hanover’s pastor. As an elder, Alice has chaired Faith-in-Action. Alice is a wonderful role model for healthy eating and living; she teaches yoga and is involved in urban gardening projects. She and Tom enjoy visiting their grandchildren.

MAP Team Working on Communications

You may recall reading about the results of our communications survey in the November Herald. Over 75 percent of those who took the survey say they get most of their information about what goes on at Hanover from other church members. That tells us we need to keep lines of communication open and that includes keeping our contact information for our church directory up to date. We also want to make the directory more comprehensive and include cell phone numbers and email addresses, since so many of us are using them more frequently than our home phones or regular mail. So expect us to be hounding all of you for updated contact information very soon.

If you want to be proactive and send it to us right away, send an email to ecasson@hanoverchurch.org or write it down and leave it in Ellen Casson’s folder in the church office. Our communications survey results also tell us we need to make some improvements on Hanover’s web page to help keep folks informed, to make sure we are taking advantage of all methods to exchange information, and to make sure that Hanover’s message of inclusive love and hospitality is reaching as wide an audience as possible. Watch for changes in the not too distant future.

CLP Update

As was reported in the Herald last summer, I am serving as a part-time commissioned lay pastor along with Elder Ginny Jones of Covenant Church. This is an open-ended commitment to the small congregation at Port Penn. The Presbytery executive, Jim Mosely, is looking to find a retired pastor to regularly perform communion and lead Session meetings; things I may not do unless commissioned.

I’m currently serving upon the invitation of the Port Penn Session, but feel it more appropriate to complete certain steps needed to be on the Stated Supply list. I have completed all my course work, although I will continue to take courses to improve my skills and knowledge for this work.

I’ve been given the “opportunity” to conduct a funeral service for someone not at Hanover or Port Penn. Since funerals are not a sacrament, it fits more with my ordination as an Elder than with the “CLP” role.

It has been a good experience and one I recommend to any so inclined.
— *Tim Arnold*

Hospital Aids Hanover

The wonderful partnership with Christiana Care continues as Hanover is the recipient of gifts given in the spirit of Christmas. The gifts include clothing for the clothing closet and lots of sorely needed items for the food pantry. Thanks to our relationship with Rose Mili, corporate communications manager at Christiana Care, the Department of External Affairs at Christiana Care has collected donations of clothing, food, toiletries, and money to support the important services provided by the food pantry and clothing closet.

Thank you to Christiana Care, for the wonderful gifts that will be help families and individuals in need. We also look forward to holding another health fair at Hanover in the near future.

Choir School Visits

Hanover is one of the locations that the Cathedral Choir School is considering as its new home. The choir school, a mission of the Cathedral Church of St. John at Concord and Market streets, will be relocating in mid-2012 when the cathedral is scheduled to close.

Representatives from choir school have toured Hanover and the C.E. building, and met with the ad hoc C.E. building committee, to explore how Hanover’s facilities might be used by the school.

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