

THE HANOVER HERALD

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

Sharing Our Space

Hanover's building is truly a "Gathering Place." In addition to all the activities of our Hanover members, there are many outside groups using space on a regular basis – some weekly, some monthly, and some more than once a week. We also have special occasion requests for social activities or meetings, or for furniture and equipment, and often we have the "out-of-the-blue" unpredictable requests for space. Sometimes the requests are inconvenient and rushed. Often the groups or individuals who want to use our Hanover building do not have funds to pay for the space.

Good grief! Someone needs to schedule, coordinate and deal with all of this! We now have a revived building use committee serving under the property committee. Our group consists of Andrea McCoy-Carty, Tom Baker, Ellen Casson, Melvin Matthews, and Andy Jacob. Jill McCracken has been a valuable consultant on an as-needed basis.

Our committee recently revised the Building Use Application, to simplify it, address security concerns, and change some of the fees. We also addressed some procedural issues and Session approved the changes at its February meeting.

One procedural note: "no chairs, tables, or other furnishings belonging to the church will be loaned or rented for use off church grounds." This has been part of our building use procedures for several years, but many members are not aware of it. The group that originally drew up the procedures felt Hanover could not afford the replacement of lost or damaged items, and our current committee feels we should continue this practice.

One of our most important tasks is balancing the security of our building, its furnishings and equipment, the safety of the occupants,

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Greet Our Newest Members – and Confirmands!

With great joy and much gratitude three of our youth were received into membership in our February 19 worship service. As we celebrated the third Sunday in our Black History Month program which focused on the future, we confirmed and welcomed them into full membership in the congregation.

The new members (from left above) are Christina Bedford (daughter of Jacque Howard-Sachs and Joshua Sachs), Leandra Moore (mother of Sophia, daughter of Beth Undercuffler, and granddaughter of Bob and Pat Undercuffler) and Devin Pulliam (son of Marshae and Keith Bibbs and grandson of Herman and Marjorie Pulliam). They led worship, repeated their baptismal vows, and received the laying on of hands. They had all taken part in a confirmation process led by our Youth Leader Greg Harris that began last September. May God bless their spiritual journeys as they respond to their calls to serve God through Hanover.

Per Capita for 2012 is

\$28.18 per member.

Cost to Hanover is

\$5,946. If each of us

pays our own per

capita, just think of

the good things

Hanover could do

with the extra money!

Session Adopts Policy Welcoming Civil Unions

As of Jan. 1 Civil Unions became legally recognized relationships in the state of Delaware. This means that same gender couples "who enter into a civil union will enjoy the same rights, protections and obligations that exist for married spouses."

For nearly 30 years Hanover has been committed to equal treatment and opportunity for people of all sexual orientations and identities in the church and in the world. As such the Session affirmed that Civil Unions will be joyously celebrated at Hanover Church. In addition, it was also affirmed that the process for Civil Unions (pre-union coun-

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From the Pastor's Study

Lent and Healing

This year the theme of Lent at Hanover is healing. Throughout our forty day walk with Jesus through the wilderness, we will focus on the healing that we desire for ourselves and the world.

Healing happens when we are freed from the things that compromise our wholeness. The things we need to be healed from are as varied and diverse as God's children. Yet the call is the same: to come before God and one another and claim the things from which we would be freed, and then walk with God and each other through and beyond the wilderness.

In worship we will recognize and pray about our need for healing. In our discipleship gatherings (previously Christian Education) we will hear from special guests as they share their healing ministries. And over soup and bread Lenten meals (each Wednesday, 5:30-7) we will walk through scripture with those who were healed by Jesus. Finally, there will be a special place in the Lounge set up for the season for quiet reflection and prayer. Healing does not happen in isolation — it is an act of community.

May God bless our healing journey as we take it together, and may it deliver freedom to us each and all.

Peace — Pastor Andy

Treasurer's Corner

The Finance Committee (Tim Arnold, Ellen Casson, Ralph Fortney, Andy Jacob, Ray Kirkpatrick, Jeff Long, and Tom Baker) met in January and updated the 2012 budget, which Session approved in February.

The revised 2012 budget has a deficit of \$25,000, slightly less than the \$28,000 deficit forecast in the fall of 2011. Our reserves to cover future deficits are anticipated to be \$87,000 at the end of 2012.

The budget includes \$155,000 for pledge offerings, a 7 percent increase over 2011. We have received \$152,000 in pledges to date, and anticipate pledges to reach the \$155,000 goal. The budget was approved with the understanding that if we do not receive \$155,000, we will reduce benevolence payments to General Assembly and Faith in Action by \$1,000 each. At this point pledge receipts are about on budget.

2012 utility costs are expected to be \$6,500 lower than usual due to the credit built up under the Delmarva budget plan in 2011. 2013 utility costs are expected to return to more normal higher levels. The lower utility costs partially offset the cost of replacing the flat roof on the Jefferson Street side of the sanctuary. The total cost of the roof repair was \$13,700; but we were able to cover \$7,349 of that cost with uncommitted funds remaining in the maintenance reserve from the boiler repair funds contributed in the past. We increased the 2012 budget to cover anticipated costs of repairing the heating controls in the education building, where we are unable to maintain the heat at a comfortable level. The other major change in the budget is a 6 percent increase in our insurance costs.

2012 Per Capita expense is \$28.18 per member. Hanover's per capita cost is \$5,946. Last year \$2,241 was contributed toward per capita expense.

Session also changed the policy of limiting committee chairs to a \$500 expense approval limit before requiring separate Session action. Committee chairs may now authorize expenses within their unspent approved budget. This primarily affects the Property Committee and eliminates the need for separate Session approval of expenses above \$500 if there are unspent budgeted funds.

Ray Kirkpatrick is in the process of auditing the 2011 accounting records.

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

What's New with the MAP Team?

Your MAP Team has divided itself to focus on accomplishing some tasks — some that are more immediate and others that are longer-term goals. One part of the team will be concentrating on the community organizing connections with outside groups. The other part of the team is focused on communication and outreach in ways that will be more visible to Hanover members and to people who might be using our church building, or who might be seeking a church home such as Hanover.

One example — you may notice a few new signs around outside the church to help with directions for the use of all of our doors. Hanover does have a few doors and it is not always easy for the uninformed to figure out which door to use. More signs are to come — both outside and in.

We are also working on the directory and hope to make it more comprehensive and include email addresses. The directory will always be a work in progress, as contact info changes constantly, but we will make an effort to keep up. You can help by checking your copy of the directory to see how you are listed. What changes are needed in your contact information? You can call the church office and leave information about what should be changed or you can use the Connection Card in the bulletin to make corrections or additions.

Look forward to an updated web page in the near future. The web page will be using a new platform that will be easier to navigate. It will have an inviting new look that shares Hanover's commitment to hospitality, diversity and justice. Ideas, thoughts, questions are invited. Map Team members are Karin Wilson, Ray Kirkpatrick, Lorie Tudor, Hillary Mohaupt, Matthia McCracken, Ellen Casson, Andy Jacob, and Joyce Johnson, Speer representative.

Sharing Our Space

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and the maintenance and utility costs, with our desire to extend hospitality and grace. If you have suggestions or questions, please contact someone on the committee. The Building Use Application forms are in the church office.

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. (Hebrews 13:2)

Civil Unions Welcomed

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selling and affirmation from the session and pastors) will be the same as for marriages; this being the witness of the congregation that a life-long commitment between two people called by God to love one another is the same regardless of orientation or identity. May God continue to bless our witness to the power and expanse of God's love.

March Birthdays

- 3 Theo Gregory, Jr.
- 5 Tara Lynn Hall
- 7 Elva Taber
- 8 Frann Anderson
Martha Tudor
Sirena Turner
- 9 Sue Baker
- 11 Christopher Jacob
Susie Watson
- 13 Thelma Meginnis
- 16 Porshay Matthews
Sharay Matthews
- 18 Elizabeth Kennedy
- 24 Karen Barkes
- 26 Joan Ross
Ellsworth Thompson
- 28 Ellen Casson
Andrea McCoy-Carty
- 30 Anna Tudor-West

Hanover on Facebook

Become a fan of Hanover -- join us on our Facebook page (Hanover Presbyterian Church). Updates for all events are posted weekly, as well as pictures from the events. Invite your friends to be Hanover fans as well. Visitors to The Hanover Facebook page will see all the fun and exciting things our church can do!

Hanover News & Notes

Delegation to Attend Advocacy Conference

Faith in Action is planning to send a delegation to a conference in the Washington area that is being promoted by the PC(USA.) A Compassion, Peace, and Justice Training Day on March 23 will be followed by the 10th annual Ecumenical Advocacy Days. The conference will look at the economy and our national priorities through the lens of Isaiah 58.

Our team will join other Christians in seeking a global economy and a national budget to break the yokes of injustice, poverty, hunger and unemployment throughout the world -- heeding Isaiah's call to become "repairers of the breach and restorers of streets to live in." And Hanover's former director of music, Patrick Evans, is the music of minister for the conference!

If you think you might be interested in participating, here are a couple of websites you can look at: <http://officeofpublicwitness.blogspot.com> and <http://advocacydays.org/>. You may also talk to Tia McCracken, Lorie Tudor or Andy Jacob (all of whom are hoping to attend).

Coffee Cans Needed

The Deacons use small coffee cans to distribute the Sunday Church Service flowers and our supply is running low. We would appreciate any donations of empty small coffee cans. The empty coffee cans may be left in the church office.

Stewardship Update

Good news! We are up to 60 pledges for \$152,000 - 98 percent of our pledge goal of \$155,000. We are so close. Can we get there? Dare we dream that we could go beyond the pledge goal? Many thanks are extended 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. If you are not comfortable making a year-long commitment, you can help by giving a one-time pledge gift. If you have any questions about how your gift can support Hanover, please contact Tim Arnold, Financial Secretary, or Ellen Casson, Stewardship Chair.

Calling all cooks!

As you know, many people have volunteered to provide meals for one of our families at Hanover during a stressful time. Another friend of Hanover and former member has called and is also in need of assistance with meals. If you would be able to help by preparing an "extra" meal when you do your own and bring it in to church, it would be greatly appreciated. We have freezer space available and it is so handy to have meals already in there to be able to give out when we get a call like this one. Thanks for your help!
— *Becky Arnold* (351-4988)

Church Life Activities

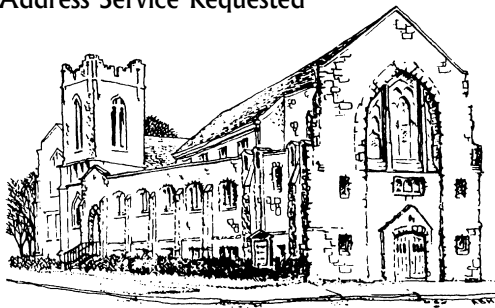
The church is sponsoring another Jeremiah's coffee house on Saturday, March 31. Please see George Turner if you are interested in sharing a talent at the coffee house that evening. Food and drink will be available for a nominal fee.

Other important dates to keep in mind in the not too distant future: Game night is scheduled on Friday, April 27. Bring a favorite game and share it with everyone and learn some new games. Pizza and soda will be provided as we gather together.

Super Sale is planned for May 5. Bring in your unneeded stuff to the super sale and volunteer to be a part of this FUNdraiser for the church. Also, the annual church picnic at Fox Point Park is set for Sunday, June 24.

Come out and support these church activities as we work to make 2012 the very best. Stay tuned for more details and more activities coming in the near future.

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Easter Flowers to Decorate the Sanctuary

If you wish to honor loved ones by donating Easter flowers for the sanctuary, please:

1. Fill out this order form. Donations may be made either in memory of someone who has died or in honor of someone who is living.
2. Enclose a check, payable to Hanover Presbyterian Church (\$10 per plant)
3. Mail form and check to:

Mary B. Haynes
1005 N. Franklin St., Apt. 1005
Wilmington, DE 19806

In order to be sensitive to those who are affected by allergies, the choices are Spring flowers that do not produce pollen.

Please select the flowers that you would like to order:

- Tulips Daffodils

After Easter Worship:

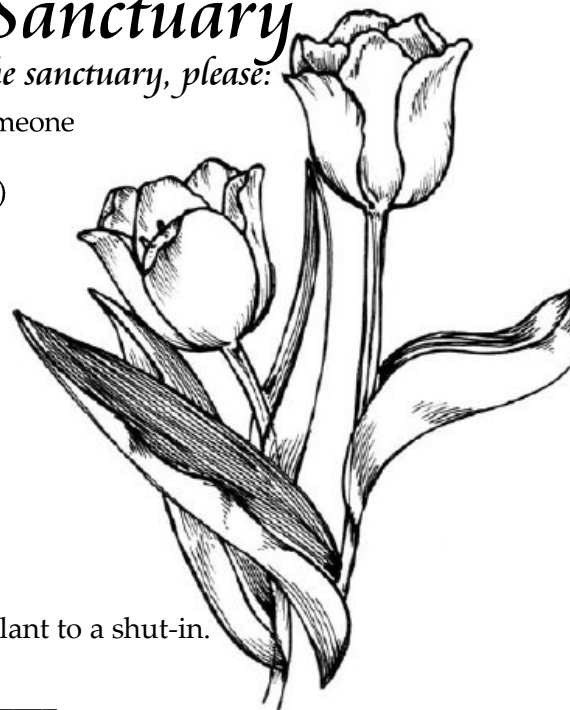
- I will pick up a plant. I will not pick up a plant. Please give plant to a shut-in.

Donor's Name (please print)

In memory of (please print)

OR

In honor of (please print)



*Orders Must Be Received
by Sunday, March 25*