

THE HANOVER HERALD

A newsletter for the people
of Hanover Presbyterian Church,
Wilmington, Delaware
December 2016



Greening the Church

No, it's not magic that brings the Christmas look to Hanover's building each December — it's the work of volunteers who spend a Saturday morning hanging wreaths and garlands, decorating Christmas trees and fixing ribbons and bows. If you would like to help, the greening this year begins at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 10.

Blueprint Community Seeks Residents' Comments

In March of this year, the Washington Heights Blueprint Community was officially awarded this designation, by the FHLBank of Pittsburgh and the University of Delaware Center for Community Research and Service (CCRS). This is a new multi-year community revitalization initiative serving the Triangle, Washington Heights, and Brandywine Village neighborhood association boundaries.

The Hanover Dream Team (Delaware Readiness Team) and the board for Jefferson Street Center, Inc. were instrumental in forming a team of community residents and organizational partners and submitted the proposal to the University of Delaware and FHLBank Pittsburgh. The partnership of the bank and CCRS is dedicated to providing leadership and training so organizations and individuals can “enhance

the economic, social, cultural, and physical conditions of Delaware communities.”

The Washington Heights Blueprint Community Team has been engaged in mapping assets in the community, gathering survey information, and having a variety of conversations with residents, business owners, houses of worship and non-profits.

We are holding another conversation on Tuesday, Dec.13, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. The gathering will be in Hanover's education wing on the second floor. Please attend this conversation, if you are interested and available. You do not have to be a resident of the community to be involved. You just need to have an interest in the community.

There is no elevator access to the second floor of the education wing,

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2016 UnGifts Program Has 2 New Selections

The popular UnGifts program at Hanover has two new selections for those who want to give a gift that helps others (and won't wind up in the attic).

The Faith in Action Committee has offered UnGifts at Christmas since 2006. These are meaningful gift options for your friends or family. You make a donation in honor of your “giftees” to a project that makes a difference in the world, “loving our neighbors as ourselves.”

FIA provides a gift card and an insert that describes the project to which you donate that you can give to the person on whose behalf you have made the donation. If someone wants a gift suggestion for you, consider an UnGift!

The two new UnGifts selections this year are:

- Windows for Hope, a new project of Interfaith Power & Light, provides interior storm windows for West Center City residents.
- Jewish Family Service Refugee Resettlement program, which helps new immigrants integrate into the community.

Returning to the UnGifts menu are three programs that have been popular in previous years:

- Kiva gives loans to enable people around the world to improve their ability to support themselves.
- Read-In Read Out gives parents who are incarcerated the resources to stay connected with their young children through recordings of books.
- Hanover's Food Pantry works to prevent hunger in our own community, serving an average of 300 households every month.

UnGifts will be available after worship on three Sundays—Dec. 4, 12, and 18—and at the Christmas Dinner on Friday, Dec. 9.

Perspective & Privilege

Yes, God speaks in mysterious ways. There are times, however, when messages from God offer less mystery and more mastery.

Last Tuesday evening a cloud of witnesses gathered in our sanctuary for the annual 9th Ward interfaith Thanksgiving celebration. I'd been looking forward to the service for weeks; eagerly anticipating a moment to step back from and step out of the ceaseless conversations about the state of our nation. I confess to arriving with the need to be with sisters and brothers of faith; celebrating the light, love and blessings of our God in music and message. I was seeking a respite from the ongoing and divisive conversations about our differences; seeking to rejoice in that which connects us.

Then came the message. Rabbi Elisa Koppel offered stories and a message about how blessings and curses are a matter of perspective. At several points, she made appropriate, helpful, and insightful connections about where we are in our country as a result of the election.

My heart sank. The messenger drew me into the very place I was seeking to escape. Really? Just for a couple of hours, can't I get a break? This whole thing is constant and consuming...why won't it leave me alone? Precious Lord, take my hand. I am tired, I am weak, I am worn...

I bowed my head and closed my eyes, asking God for strength; to get me through the message, the service, and the coming days.

When I opened my eyes, they fell upon the safety pin I was wearing on my lapel. Like so many, I've been wearing it to signify that I am willing to offer safety and security to anyone who is feeling unsafe or insecure.

Sometimes, God speaks in not so mysterious ways. In that moment, God "spoke" to me about

my privilege. By the grace of God I was given a new perspective on a reality that I rarely, if ever, experience: the constant possibility that I might be treated differently by virtue of my race, class, gender, culture, religion, or orientation.

What a privilege: to be able to step back from and step out of reality when it is exhausting and painful. What a privilege to wear a safety pin; an outward symbol of who I am and what I believe, but that I can put on and take off at will. How ironic, and yes, how selfish and self-centered, to become disturbed and distressed when the peace I am so desperately seeking is pierced by the ongoing reality of so many I seek to love and serve.

Thank and bless you sister Elisa for leading me to become more aware than ever that I live, work, serve, and pray with sisters and brothers who ask every day: Why can't I get a break? Why won't this leave me alone? Will it ever end?

I will continue to wear my safety pin, but I will do so from a new perspective. I will continue to strive to offer a presence of safety, security, and solidarity; but I will do so with renewed and enhanced humility. And I will seek to do so recognizing a reality deeper and wider than my own.

Peace, Andy

Blueprint Community

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so if you can't attend because of that, or for any other reason, there are other options for providing input. You can send the team an email at washheightsblueprint@gmail.com, visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/washheightsblueprint, and/or fill out a survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/9GVY77N.

JSC Meeting

Jefferson Street Center, Inc. will hold its annual meeting on Monday, December 19, at 6:00 P.M., in the Gathering Place.

The Session adopted the 2017 budget at its November meeting, pending approval of the Pastor's terms of call at the annual meeting Dec. 4. The finance committee recommended that we continue to combine the pledged and non-pledged contributions for budget purposes, as we did for the first time in 2016. The pledged and non-pledged categories will still be tracked separately by the financial secretaries, and will be reflected separately in our bookkeeping. A 3 percent increase in our budgeted amount for pledged and non-pledged contributions was approved. We ask everyone who is able to consider making this small increase in your giving, to support Hanover's personnel and the important work of our church, both within our congregation and in the community.

A 3 percent increase in income for personnel is included in 2017 budget. The salary information for the sexton position remains the same, to provide flexibility in planning for changes in personnel for 2017. Upon the recommendation of the finance and personnel committees, Session also approved a Retirement Savings Plan match of up to 4 percent for staff working 25 hours or more. The plan is offered through the PCUSA Board of Pensions. The budget also provides an addition of \$1,400 for the work of the Deacons. Our budget reflects a deficit of \$17,000.

The budget summary:

Income:

Contributions (pledged and non-pledged).....	\$173,000
Per Capita giving.....	3,800
Loose offering.....	8,500
Fundraising.....	5,500
Jefferson Street Center contributions.....	4,500
Open Arms Rent and utilities.....	49,900
Investment/memorial income....	6,000
Building use.....	7,800
Total Income.....	\$259,000

Expenses:

Pastor.....	\$94,428
Other personnel.....	93,624
Building/Operating.....	69,010
Per Capita assessment.....	5,697
Programs.....	9,395
Presbytery, General Assembly, and Pastor Discretionary Fund.....	4,600
Total Expense.....	\$276,754
Deficit (from reserves).....	(\$17,754)

—Ellen Casson, Finance chair

Hanover Presbyterian Church • Wilmington, Delaware

MUSIC MATTERS

Advent is my favorite season. It is a time to enjoy the wait, and to be filled with hope – we are looking for the light of the world. He is coming.

♪ As a special part of the season, the choir will be offering three anthems by American composer Elaine Hagenberg during Advent and Christmas Eve service. Elaine's compositional style is full of longing suspensions and lush harmonics – truly beautiful.

Two musical opportunities:

♪ A change in venue for the advertised Service of Solace – we are headed to Trinity Presbyterian Church to join in with their Service of Hope and Light on Sunday, Dec. 4, at 3 p.m. at Trinity Presbyterian Church (1120 Darley Road). We will worship with four other congregations: Trinity, Concord Presbyterian, Church of the Covenant, and the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd. Please come and enjoy a time of comfort and solace during the busy holiday season.

♪ Saturday, Dec. 24, 7 p.m. On Christmas Eve we will welcome pianist Ethel Ohlsen and countertenor Gus Mercante. This will be Ethel's first visit—and Gus' 20th year for Christmas Eve at Hanover. Join us for a glorious celebration as we greet the Christ Child, our light.

O come, let us adore him!

Soli deo gloria, (To God alone the glory) – *Twyla*

December Birthdays

- 4 Sarah Davenport
- 5 Lynn Gregory
Alison Moore
- 7 Marjorie McNeill
- 8 Cory Melvin
- 12 Pat Hall
Della Williams
Taylor Zistl
- 13 Lois Ford
- 14 Andrew Jacob
Judy Van Rooyen
- 15 Michael Carty
- 20 Diane Dunham
- 22 Peg Showalter
- 24 Lisa Poirier
- 29 Grant Evitts
- 29 Beatrice Wilson

Celebrate Christmas at Hanover

Sunday, Dec. 4, 3 p.m.: Join Hanover, Concord, Trinity and Church of the Covenant Presbyterian Churches and the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd for a joint Service of Solace, at Trinity Presbyterian Church, Darley and Naamans Roads. This will be a service of Hope and Light.

Friday, Dec. 9, 6 p.m.: Annual Christmas Dinner (Sign up now in the Church School Hall).

Saturday, Dec. 10, 10 a.m.: Greening of the church and hall

Saturday, Dec. 24: Our Christmas Eve lessons and carols service beginning at 7 p.m. Special music will begin at 6:45 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day worship will be in the Church School Hall at 11 a.m., telling the story through music. Come casual.

Sunday, Jan. 1, 2017: Welcome the New Year with hymns and readings in the Church School Hall at 11 a.m.

Sunday, Jan. 8, 2017: Epiphany and Communion, 11 a.m.

HANOVER NEWS & NOTES

Turkey Central News!

On Sunday, Nov. 20, Hanover's Youth Discipleship classes joined together to fill 106 bags with food to make a Thanksgiving dinner for families in our neighborhood. In no time at all, each bag was filled with stuffing, cans of vegetables, cranberry sauce, fresh potatoes and sweet potatoes, gravy and pie. The next day, each of those bags was joined by a turkey from the Food Bank of Delaware and at 3 p.m. people started streaming through the door down to the Gathering Place to pick up their bags.

This is our fifth year to work on this project with our partner the BTL Foundation. The founder of this organization, Mr. Lackshman passed away this fall and his presence was missed by all of us who have been involved with him over the years. Thanks to all of you who donated to this project by supporting the hot dog cart this summer and with your offerings of canned goods and money for our third Sunday offering.

Offering Envelopes

If you would like to have a box of offering envelopes for 2017, please tell one of the Financial Secretaries (Romain Alexander, Russ Buckley, Amy Harris, or Jill McCracken), and we will make sure you get one. You may also leave a note in the Financial Secretary mailbox in the office, or ask one of the office staff to do so.

Welcome a New Member

After Gloria Rivers moved to Delaware from Pennsylvania, her prayerful journey for a permanent church home ended May 2016 when she discovered Hanover.

After her retirement, Gloria studied at various schools and engaged in many venues; flower arrangements, ceramics classes, cruising (37 of them), deep sea fishing, playing in bridge tournaments, chaplain for Azalia's Red Hatters, professional clowning (member of Clowns of America International and the Mid-Atlantic Clowns Association), and totally spoiling her grandchildren. These activities made her life wonderful in spite of serious illnesses.

Her passion for music had enabled her to sing with many well-known groups in Pennsylvania and Delaware.

Gloria's guiding scripture is Psalm 139: 23-24. "Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me and know my thoughts and see if there be any wicked way in me, lead me in the way everlasting."

Giving Today: An Update

Many thanks to those who have submitted their pledges for 2017. The number of pledges received to date is 42 which includes 5 first-time pledges—God bless the generosity of Hanover's saints! And a friendly reminder that if you haven't already done so, it's not too late to pledge!

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 (302) 658-5114
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Female Harmony Society Offers Enslin Scholarship

A memorial scholarship award was created in 2015, through a financial gift made in honor of Marybelle Enslin, by her husband, Gerry, and her children, Nancy Mathewson, David Enslin, and Donald Enslin. Marybelle, a devoted member of the Female Harmony Society, died Dec. 30, 2014, at the age of 93.

She believed in the power of education to improve lives, particularly continuing education beyond high school and college. One of the legacies of the Female Harmony Society is its commitment to education and helping those who might not otherwise be able to continue their education. We are grateful to the Enslin family for making this scholarship possible.

There will be one scholarship given per year, in the amount of \$1,000. The scholarship will be for a post-graduate program leading to a degree or professional certification that will improve the lives of others. The yearly time frame is from January to January, with the opening of the application process on Nov. 1 of the preceding year, and the closing date on Dec. 15. The award decision will be made by Jan. 15.

For more information, contact Becky Arnold, Maggie Alexander, or Nona Holy, or send a request for an application to the Female Harmony Society at 1801 N. Jefferson Street. Applications will also be available at www.Femaleharmony.society.org.

CALENDAR

Movie: *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, 4:30 p.m., Dec. 3
Congregational Meeting, Dec. 4
Session, 7:15 p.m., Dec. 6
Advent Soup Dinners, 5:30 p.m., Dec. 7, 14 and 21
Faith in Action, 5 p.m., Dec. 8
Christmas Dinner, 6 p.m., Dec. 9
Greening, 10 a.m., Dec. 10
Ordination and Installation of Officers, 11 a.m., Dec. 11
Washington Heights Blueprint Team, 5 p.m., Dec. 13
Women's Bible Study, 12:30 p.m., Dec. 15
Deacons, 5:45 p.m., Dec. 19
Theology on Tap, 7:30 p.m., Dec. 20
UD Pasta Dinner, 5 p.m., Dec. 21
Staff Meeting, noon, Dec. 21
Christmas Eve Service, 6:45 p.m., Dec. 24
Office closed, Dec. 26

Christmas Poinsettias to Decorate the Sanctuary

If you wish to honor loved ones by donating poinsettias for display on Christmas Eve, 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 Church (\$10 per plant)
3. Mail form and check to:

Sue Baker
 1212 Foulk Road, 3A
 Wilmington, DE 19803

After Christmas Eve 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)

