

THE HANOVER HERALD

A newsletter for the people
of Hanover Presbyterian Church,
Wilmington, Delaware
January 2017



Annual Freedom Forum

Saturday, Feb. 4, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Guest author and workshop leader Dr. Amanda Kemp will lead a discussion of her new book, *Say the Wrong Thing*. Part memoir and part social commentary, it provides insight and "strategies from the H.E.A.R.T." to create racial justice and a strong sense of shared community.

25th Soul Food Luncheon

Sunday, Feb. 5, immediately following the 11 a.m. worship service

Two Guest Preachers

Sunday, Feb. 12, 11 a.m.:
Judge William Chapman
Sunday, Feb. 19, 11 a.m.:
J.B. Redding

Gospel Vespers

Sunday, Feb. 19, 4 p.m.

- The Twin Poets of Delaware
- Melodic Movements dance troupe
- Soloists Brian Gray, Taralynn Dillard, and Akeira Cramer (a Grammy Amplifier winner)
- The Hanover Choir
- Dr. Amanda Kemp and Michael Jamanis, violinist

Sanctuary Sound System Getting an Upgrade

Over the course of the last few months, members of the property and finance committees have been investigating what it would take to upgrade the sound system in the sanctuary. Our current system is a combination of some older, high quality components, patched here and there with some components that are inadequate and sometimes unreliable. For example, we are often asked to play recorded music

through our sound system, and at the same time record the service. This is done with a great deal of difficulty.

After receiving two estimates, a recommendation to proceed with a proposal from Sound Designs was approved by Session. This company comes highly recommended by Trinity Presbyterian Church and Beth Shalom. The proposal will

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Pastor's Compensation Set, Officers Elected

The pastor's compensation package for 2017 was approved by the congregation at the Annual Meeting held on Dec. 4. A 3-percent increase in income for the pastor was approved. As part of the approved compensation package, the pastor will also be eligible for a retirement savings plan match of up to 4 percent of salary. This is offered through the PCUSA Board of Pensions. The pastor's salary is \$57,363. The total compensation package includes a housing allowance, pension and medical coverage, and automobile and continuing education reimbursements benefits. Including the potential savings plan match, the total compensation package is \$94,428. The pastor also receives five weeks of vacation, two weeks of study leave, and three additional out-of-pulpit Sundays.

The entire budget for 2017 was reviewed, including the salary information for expanding the hours of Church Administrator Matthia McCracken to fulltime. The same 3-percent increase in salary approved for the pastor was approved by Session for all personnel in the 2017 budget. Likewise, upon the recommendation of the finance and personnel committees, Session approved the retirement savings plan match of up to 4 percent for staff working 25 hours or more.

The funding for the sexton position remains the same, to provide flexibility in planning for changes in personnel for 2017. The goal is that staff changes will not impact the bottom line of the budget. The budget will be revised in January when the sexton position is filled.

Questions and comments from the congregation included a request to post the names of members of Session and the Board of Deacons on the bulletin board in the Church

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Looking Ahead

So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! All this is from God, who reconciled us through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation . . .

—II Corinthians 5:17-18

In the annual rhythm of church newsletters, this is the one that is all about what is, and will be, new. Never having been as bold as the apostle Paul, I'm not ready to say that everything old has passed away; much less that everything has become new. However, as we turn the page to 2017, I am just bold enough to say there is a whole lot of newness ahead. Praise God, for the new things we will receive at Hanover in the coming year . . .

In the next few days we will see yet another advance in our staffing. Just as Twyla, our minister of music, increased her hours last September to lead us in bringing our musical gifts out into the world, so now Matthia, our church administrator, will be working full time to increase our capacity to share our message well beyond our walls. Also in the near future we will be welcoming a new sexton into our midst, whose care of our building and grounds will maintain the warm and welcoming setting into which the world is invited to receive our hospitality. Through it all, we will continue our courageous conversations centered on creating new ministries that reach into the community, as well as care more expansively for the Hanover Saints. By the grace of God, so much will be new at 18th and Baynard, not the least of which is our renewed energy to be in ministry together.

These new things are gifts from God; like all gifts from God, they are granted with a reason and for a purpose. The lesson of the manger is clear: the faithful response to receiving the gift of the Christ child is to return to the world bearing his light.

In this new year so much in the world will be new. As certainly as there will be expected and unex-

pected gifts of joy; just as clearly many of the new things will challenge us, as people of faith, to distinguish and discern the will of God for all of God's children. These new gifts from God we are receiving are being offered for just such a time as this.

To use Paul's words, God offers reconciliation so that we might be made new in our relationship with Christ. That is, however, only the first step. God offers the gift of reconciliation so that once renewed with God, we would be strengthened for the ministry of reconciliation to which we are called.

Friends, by the grace of God, we are receiving what we need to faithfully and effectively engage the world with love where there is hatred, solace where there is fear, and light where there is darkness. May God bless us to use our gifts wisely and well, so that they would lead to the new creation promised by God.

Peace, Andy

MUSIC MATTERS

We are basking in the light of the Christ Child as the new year approaches. What a glorious Christmas Eve service! Thank you so much to the Hanover Choir and our musical guests Gus Mercante and Ethel Ohlsen.

In January we will be participating in an interfaith service on Inauguration Eve. We will join with our sisters and brothers from all walks of faith for a time of hope, strength, and a call for God's continued guidance among us for the days ahead. Join us at Congregation Beth Emeth on Thursday, Jan. 19, at 7 p.m.

At the end of January we will have as musical guests the Choir School of Delaware – please mark your calendars for Jan. 29 and come and support this wonderful group of youth and adults as they bring us a morning full of great music in our worship.

The Hanover Choir and the Hanover Drum Circle are also preparing for our 25th Black History Month celebration. February will be full of spirituals and gospel pieces sure to

At the December Session meeting, we reviewed the treasurer's report through the end of October 2016 (83 percent of the year). Our combined pledged and unpledged regular income totaled \$149,790, which is 89 percent of the budget goal for the year, and is good news for the year-end outlook.

Looking ahead to the November 2016 finance report to be presented to Session at the January 2017 meeting, the income exceeds expenses by \$8,150. This is more good news for the financial outlook at the end of 2016. While all of the 2016 figures for income and expenses are not in yet, it is very likely that we will end 2016 without a budget deficit.

Added to this positive news, is the fact that we exceeded the goal of raising \$50,000 for our Bicentennial Fund. We raised \$52,969, which is divided between Hanover and the Female Harmony Society.—*Ellen Casson*

be an inspiration. Musical guests for the Gospel Vespers on Sunday, Feb. 19, are already set; look for posters and flyers to be out soon. We are looking to pack the church to the rafters!

Lots of wonderful things are coming, and always we give . . .

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

Sound System Upgrade

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give us a new 10 channel rack mixer with tone controls for each channel, the ability to tape out to a recorder, and the ability to easily play music through the system. We will get two new hand-held microphones, new fixed microphones in the lectern and pulpit, a new BlueTooth receiver, and improved sound ear cups for our current Telex listening system. The total estimate is \$2,440, which includes complete installation and set up. We are also looking into purchasing new lights for the lectern and pulpit.

Pastor's Compensation, Congregational Meeting

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School Hall. Questions about the music program budget line were answered, and a concern was raised about the condition of the Jefferson Street sidewalks, which will be referred to the property committee. There was a heartfelt recognition of the welcoming role Melvin Matthews played as Hanover's sexton. Pastor Jacob thanked outgoing officers, as well as staff members and the congregation for their service to Hanover.

These are the Hanover members elected to leadership positions at the annual meeting and installed in December:

Board of Deacons (3-year terms)

Maggie Alexander retired in 2009 after 41 years as a reading specialist. A long time member of West Presbyterian Church, she joined Hanover in 2010 where she has served as a deacon and is currently past-president of the Female Harmony Society.

Norris Cramer was born in Kennett Square, Pa., and was the second black senior class president in Kennett High School. Norris lived in California 25 years and England 2 years. He enjoys political activism and volunteering.

Susie Watson, a native of Kennett Square, Pa., is a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister. Upon the closing of Third & Olivet Presbyterian Church, where she was a member, she chose to lodge her membership at Hanover

January Birthdays

- 1 Greg Harris
- 7 Christina Poirier
David Simpson
- 8 Stephanie Cornell
Bernice Van Rooyen
- 14 Kylie Melvin
- 15 Aysha Gregory
- 16 Josh Showalter
- 18 Marjorie Pulliam
Linda Zankowsky
- 21 Alice Cornelius
- 23 Rochelle Ransom
- 26 Sebastian Gross
- 27 Chris Garrett
Jeff Long
- 31 Patrick Evans

because of the Christ-like friendship.

Rochelle Ransom (1-year term, filling vacancy) began attending worship at Hanover by giving rides to her mom, Della Williams, who's been a member since 2001. Rochelle joined in 2008. She has worked for Christiana Care Health Systems for 15 years. This is her second time serving as a deacon. She also frequently serves as liturgist during worship service, and prepares food for coffee hour.

Ruling Elders (3-year terms)

Bill Balascio is a long-time member (almost 25 years) of Hanover. He served as a deacon once and several times on Session and property committee. His hobbies include "using the Gathering Place dishwasher, concrete repair, discussing politics with those I disagree with, spoiling dogs and tormenting my long suffering wife."

Amy Harris has been a member of Hanover since 1992. She has been on Session previously and has also been treasurer, financial secretary, church secretary. She enjoys singing in the choir, reading, and playing tennis.

Beatrice Wilson has been a member of Hanover since 2015. She is a registered nurse at Christiana Hospital working in the Neurological ICU. She has been a Christian her whole life but over the last 15 years she has really been concentrating on fulfilling her God-given destiny.

Nominating Committee

Cherise Alexander (2-year term) has been a member of Hanover Presbyterian Church for 25 years. She has served as a Deacon and taught Sunday School. She is currently a member of the Invitational Team, the Female Harmony Society and the committee that plans the events for Black History Month.

Lorie Tudor (1-year term, filling a vacancy) has attended Hanover since 1979. She has a master's degree in social work and worked 30 years for the state. She has served on Faith in Action committee for a number of years. She loves the music of the church and joined the choir when she started attending Hanover.

NEWS & NOTES

Flower Donors Needed

for February. If you would like to donate flowers for the sanctuary in February, please call Becky Arnold (584-0356). All Sundays available.

Female Harmony Society

has received two applications for the Enslin Scholarship. The Grant Committee will be meeting to evaluate each one and choose a recipient in January. The \$1,000 scholarship is for individuals pursuing a post-graduate degree or professional certification that will improve the lives of others. Applications open Nov. 1 and close Dec. 15. Keep this opportunity in mind for anyone you know who would like to apply in 2017.

Planning for the Tea

The Female Harmony Society will be meeting in January to plan our 4th "Annual" Tea. It will be in the spring this year, so be on the lookout for a "save the date" notice.

Soup for a Cold Day

Too cold for the Hot Dog Cart? Maybe it's "Souper Tuesday" time! Instead of hot dogs, we will be serving up hot soup on Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Gathering Place. Any and all are welcome to join us. We will be starting on Tuesday, Jan. 17. If anyone has a good recipe for us to try, please pass it on to Becky Arnold. We will even take "to go" orders! As always, proceeds will go to the purchase of produce for the Food Pantry.

Sign Up for Soul Food

Hanover kicks off Black History Month with the annual Soul Food Luncheon being held on Sunday, Feb. 5 after worship.

This year's theme is Food for the Soul. There are sign-up sheets for food donations and to RSVP in the church school hall. You can also sign-up for a food donation on-line at Perfectpotluck.com. The coordinator name is Alexander, and password is Hanover.

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Send a Valentine to a Student

The Female Harmony Society is asking for donations to send along with heartfelt greetings to our young people who are attending college, graduate school or are serving in the armed services. February is a wonderful time to send our young men and women notes of encouragement, valentines, homemade goodies, Target gift cards, and chocolate! A box will be placed in the church office to receive your donations of whatever your heart desires to give. Please place your donations in the office by Feb. 5.

So who are these young people, you ask?

They are Austin Wilson, Alexandra Evitts, Devin Pulliam, Libby Heiks, Holly Alexander

We remember times we've worshipped, fellow-shipped, prayed, laughed, and cried with these young men and women as they grew up before our eyes. Let's show them that their church family is praying for their success in all their endeavors. Questions? Contact Nancy Long at j2nlong@comcast.net or 764-8095.

Next Study Book: 'The Underground Railroad'

The next Hanover Book Club selection will be *The Underground Railroad*, by Colson Whitehead. This novel touches on the experience of slavery and the story of those seeking to escape from it in imaginative and daring ways. The New York Times review said: "it is carefully built and stunningly daring; it is also, both in expected and unexpected ways, dense, substantial and important." The main character, Cora, is a slave on a plantation in Georgia. Life is especially difficult for Cora so when a recent arrival from Virginia tells her about the Underground Railroad, they decide to take the terrifying risk and attempt to escape. As they head north, they are being hunted. The book was featured by Oprah's book club and won several awards for best fiction in 2016.

The discussion will be at end of
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February or early in March, probably on a Sunday afternoon after the time of refreshments and fellowship. If you would like more information, about the book, simply search for the title on-line.

Giving for Today: 2017

On behalf of Hanover Church, the Stewardship Committee thanks you for your financial gifts to the church for this New Year. To date, 45 pledging units committed \$128,746 toward our budget to help support Hanover's ministry and mission.

It is never too late to turn in a pledge card indicating your pledged contribution to Hanover. If you need a new pledge card, please speak with a Stewardship Committee member. It is always possible to adjust your pledge during the year if circumstances make it necessary.

CALENDAR

Family Promise Volunteer Week,
 Jan. 1-8

Office closed, Jan. 2

Session, 7 p.m., Jan. 3

Invitational Team, 5:30 p.m., Jan. 4

Epiphany Service with Communion, 11 a.m., Jan. 8

Deacons, 5:45 p.m., Jan. 9

Washington Heights Blueprint Team, 5 p.m., Jan. 10

Washington Heights Neighborhood Association, 7 p.m., Jan. 10

Worship Committee, 5:30 p.m., Jan. 11

Faith in Action, 5 p.m., Jan. 12

Stewardship, 7 p.m., Jan. 12

Food Pantry Collection, 11 a.m., Jan. 15

Volunteering at Emmanuel Dining Room, Jan. 16

Office closed, Jan. 16

First "Souper Tuesday" luncheon, Jan. 7, 11 a.m. To 1 p.m.

Theology on Tap, 7:30 p.m., Jan. 17

UD Pasta Dinner, 5 p.m., Jan. 18

Staff meeting, noon, Jan. 18

Women's Bible Study, 12:30 p.m., Jan. 19

Interfaith Inauguration Eve Service at Congregation Beth Emeth, 7 p.m., Jan. 19

Leadership Retreat, 9 a.m., Jan. 28

Invitational Forum, 12:15 p.m., Jan. 29

The calendar on hanoverchurch.org is a good resource for staying up to date on Hanover happenings.