

THE HANOVER HERALD

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

Giving for Today: A Stewardship Update

As of this date 45 pledging units have contributed \$128,746 toward our 2017 budgeted contributions of \$173,000. Pledges are a significant part of this amount. By pledging we give greater confidence to the planned expenditure in support of our ministry and mission. For this new year, we can see this enhanced confidence in two long-term impact decisions.

The first one is the decision to hire a full-time administrative assistant. This adds stability to the office support provided to the pastor, Session, deacons and clerk of session as well as to the various committees. This is in addition to the continuation of volunteers to answer the office phone each day and support some office services—giving greater opportunity for contact with the church via telephone.

As you may have noted in the recent *Flash*, we are now advertising to hire a part-time sexton, reflecting the significant review of the efforts provided by Melvin during his tenure both in custodial and maintenance care at Hanover, but also his efforts in fostering our community outreach by his presence in the building as a key contact with user groups.

As always, there is no limitation on when you can pledge during 2017, or adjust your pledge as your circumstances dictate. If you have any questions about pledging or your current pledge, please contact one of Hanover's financial secretaries.

2017 PC(USA) Per-Capita

The denomination's percapita cost for 2017 is \$31.65 per member (confirmed youth and adults). Please consider donating your percapita to help offset this charge from the denomination, which under-

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Plan to Host Refugees Put on Hold

At its December Stated Meeting the Hanover Session voted to join several other faith-based groups in the area in becoming hosts to a refugee family. A number of Hanover members had been doing necessary preliminary ground work of gathering information and researching resources, with the expectation of welcoming a family in February. That welcome must now be deferred, due to the President's Executive Order placing a 120-day ban on accepting any refugees and an indefinite ban on those from Syria.

Refugee resettlement efforts in Delaware are ably led by Jewish Family Services (JFS), which does this work under the auspices of the national organization, HIAS. HIAS, originally called the Hebrew Immigration Aid Society, was formed in the 1800s to assist Jewish refugees from Eastern Europe and Russia to settle in the United States. When this need became less critical the organization lay fallow for some time, starting up again about five years ago with a new focus on applying Jewish values to help all immigrants in need of resettlement assistance.



Hanover has been working with JFS, whose contractual agreement with HIAS and the U.S. State Department provides the finances for housing for 90 days. We are in the process of exploring housing possibilities, and had been told that if we

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U.S. Senator Chris Coons (right) was one of the speakers at an interfaith gathering on the refugee issue held at the Islamic Society of Delaware attended by several from Hanover. Read more about this event from Pastor Andy Jacob on Page 2.

Knit, With Care

But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love. — Ephesians 4:15-16

I learned a whole lot about knitting today. Mind you, I still can't knit a single stitch. What I learned today is what it looks like when we are knitted together in God's love.

Early in the day I went some distance to be with one of our saints who is not able to be with us in person. As the result of a health crisis her ability to see is compromised, and yet she sees the important things in life with total focus and clarity. Every night she sits in her favorite chair with her favorite music playing and knits. Night after night her hands create beautiful winter caps that warm not just heads, but hearts. After much rich laughter, deep conversation, soulful prayer, and a tasty lunch I returned to Wilmington with 63 caps that will be offered to folks who come to our clothes closet. Like the beautiful strands of yarn in those precious caps, the one who created them, the ones who offer them, and those who receive them are knitted together by God's love.

The next stop in my knitting journey was the Church School Hall lounge where, as happens each Monday, the K'nittee gathers. In that circle, there is much laughter, sharing, fellowship, and faith. These knitters' hands create prayer shawls that are offered to ones in our midst who need a little extra love, support, and solidarity. When I bring them to people who are ill, anxious, or feeling alone I invite them to let the shawl envelope them with warmth and comfort as a reminder of the love of God which similarly surrounds and consoles. Like the caps, these shawls knit us together as one in God's love.

The final stop in my knitting les-

son was Newark. I accompanied a group of Hanover Saints to the Islamic Society of Delaware. In response to the executive order halting Muslim immigration from seven countries, an interfaith gathering was organized to offer support, comfort, and solidarity with our Muslim sisters and brothers. Believers came from many faiths and every direction to proclaim unity of purpose in the face of fear and exclusion. With the morning's love-laced knitting lesson fresh in my heart, we offered one of the K'nittee's prayer shawls to the Imam. We shared with him that it had been knitted with the prayer that it would bring the warmth and security of God's love; that it would remind them that we are one in our pursuit of justice and freedom. Through this gift of solidarity, our two communities of faith are knitted together in God's love.

At the end of this day I see more clearly what the love of God looks like. As with the people of God, it has the simple brilliance and beauty of a knitted cap; the diverse colors and patterns of a knitted shawl. It is created when caring hands move in unison with compassionate hearts. It is given freely, with no thought of return; offered only with the hope that it brings comfort. Sisters and brothers, we are the creation of God's hand and heart; knitted together that we might be one in God's love.

So may our hands and hearts be blessed to move with the love of God; that our creations would deliver . . . Peace,

Andy

Book Club March 5

The Hanover Book Club discussion of *The Underground Railroad*, by Colson Whitehead, will take place after worship on Sunday, March 5. The book tells the story of young slave woman who learns about the Underground Railroad and decides to try to escape with another, recently arrived, slave. If you would like a copy, contact Nancy Long or Lorie Tudor. Library and digital copies are also available.

All the numbers are in for the 2016 financial report. Hanover is in the black for the third year in a row! We budgeted for a deficit of over \$15,000 for 2016 and we have closed the year with a surplus of \$17,935. This figure factors in a repairs and maintenance category exceeding its budget by over 265 percent, due to roof and building repairs.

This good news is tempered by the painful loss of our Sexton, Melvin Matthews, who we continue to miss and cherish in our hearts and minds. Backing out what we would have continued to pay in the sexton salary and overtime, we still have a surplus of \$6,634. I expect Melvin would say *Amen! Congratulations!*

One of the most encouraging stories behind the numbers is the total amount of pledged and non-pledged contributions came to \$179,179. This is almost 7 percent above budgeted expectations. Our loose offering donations were also above expectations. The total increase in pledged and non-pledged giving was approximately \$15,000!

Thank you to all of you who believe in Hanover and offer your pledges and gifts. We have continued to receive donations from unexpected places, at unexpected times, and this is a reflection of support for what Hanover stands for, and recognition of the importance of Hanover in the community.

Some other significant categories of income in 2016 were: rent from Open Arms Academy and other building use activities \$51,873; Jefferson Street Center, Inc. \$5,100; loose offering and memorial donations \$15,733; per capita \$3,181; fundraising \$5,623 (Super Sale); and, investment income of \$7,098. — *Ellen Casson, chair of finance*

Deacons Reaching Out

2017 is going to be a great year for you and your Deacons! In the spirit of the prophets, we're getting more connected with each other and with you. Look in your mail, listen for your phone and expect a tap on your shoulder during coffee hour on Sunday. We want to get to know you! — *Jude Quinn, moderator*

MUSIC MATTERS

A big “thank you” to the Choir School of Delaware as they joined us for a wonderful musical worship service at the end of January! It is inspiring to see and hear this group, as they provide a great musical experience for so many young people. They love coming to Hanover; look for them again in September.

February is Black History Month, and that brings an offering of spirituals, gospels, and traditional African melodies. They will be sung by the choir and soloists, played on the organ and piano, rapped in percussive rhymes, and beat on the drums. We will praising God in many ways!

Our Gospel Vespers service on Feb. 19 has a fantastic line-up—check out the posters for Black History Month for a full roster of musical guests and plan on joining us for a great gathering that day.

To round out February, the Dixie Ramblers will be with us on Feb. 26 for the last Sunday before Lent begins – there’s nothing like New Orleans-style jazz for a Mardi Gras celebration!

As we sing, dance, rap, and bang, we lift our praise . . .

Soli deo Gloria (To God alone the glory),

—Twyla

Volunteers Sought for Habitat for Humanity Work

The Ninth Ward Interfaith Coalition is collecting names of individuals to volunteer together at Habitat for Humanity periodically throughout the year. We are currently in the planning phase of this new and exciting initiative. Habitat for Humanity is an international organization that builds and restores homes through the efforts of volunteers and low income families who will live in the homes.

Please contact Matthia McCracken in the office if you are interested.

The Ninth Ward Interfaith Coalition includes:

Shiloh Baptist Church, Congregation Beth Emeth, Congregation Beth Shalom, Hanover, Praying Ground Community Church, Peninsula-McCabe United Methodist Church, The Muslim Center Masjid Al-Kauthar, and Brandywine Community United Methodist Church

February Birthdays

- 1 Lee Buckley
Sean Simpson
- 3 Nancy Long
Jurgens Van Rooyen
- 4 Hope Alexander
Twyla Evitts
- 6 Andy Moore
Nathaniel Arnold
- 7 Tracey Lewis
- 8 Doris Murphy
- 9 Andrew Long
- 15 Gabby Murphy
- 16 Jean Gross
- 17 Maggie Alexander
Lynn Edwards
- 21 Tom Davis
Mike Kirylik
- 22 Nancy B. Palmer
- 24 Melvin Matthews, Jr.
Irene Turner
- 25 Stuart Bailey
- 26 Chris Simmons
Larry Smith
Brian Zankowsky
- 27 Kay Twing

Refugee Plan on Hold

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were successful in that search we would likely be matched with one of two Syrian families, one of four members and one of five, who were slated to arrive in the U.S. imminently. At the time of this writing, we don’t know if the families had made it into the country before the block was in place, but it seems unlikely.

After the months and years of struggle they have endured, including an exhaustive screening process, this sudden denial of a chance for a more stable situation is a devastating blow for these parents and children. Protests against the ban have sprung up around the country, and legal steps are being taken which affect it. Hanover members will be watching and are eager to offer the help we are preparing, when it becomes possible to do so.

New Hours, Duties for Church Administrator

In mid-January, our church administrator Matthia McCracken began her new role as church administrator and operations manager. In addition to her hours increasing to a full-time status, her responsibilities will expand beyond the office.

While continuing her work to manage items like the website/social media, church calendar, and reception, she will now also facilitate building use, coordinate with vendors, and be a point of contact for a variety of church needs.

Her new hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, and noon to 8 p.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Sexton Position Posting

Hanover Church is seeking a part-time (25 hours a week) sexton. The position description is available at hanoverchurch.org or by calling 658-5114. Please send letters of interest, along with qualifications and work-related experience, and three references to Romain Alexander, Personnel Committee Chair, Hanover Presbyterian Church, 1801 N. Jefferson St., Wilmington, DE, 19802. Applications will be received until to Feb. 13.

Stewardship Update

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writes the General Assembly, the Synod of the MidAtlantic, and New Castle Presbytery. By doing this you are helping to re-direct our budgeted amount, totaling \$5,697, back into our operating income in support of ministry and mission programs.

Hanover has for many years been the beneficiary of direct support through New Castle Presbytery. It is important that each of us understands how they uses their funds in support of our presbytery’s 51 congregations and connected ministries. Watch for more information coming soon.

Hanover Street Presbyterian Church
1801 N. Jefferson Street
Wilmington, DE 19802
(302) 658-5114
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The Super Sale!

The date has been chosen – Saturday, May 6. The time as usual – 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tables to be staffed – Bake, Nearly New and Collectibles, Housewares, Linens, Electronics and Sports, Furniture, Seasonal, Miscellaneous, Toys and Garden.

Help is needed on sale day and for the week before for pricing and setting up tables. All that “stuff” you have been saving may be dropped off starting Tuesday afternoon, May 2.

If you would like to help with this wonderful event, please contact Ellen, Becky or Ruth. This is a great opportunity to get to know members of your church family better and having a fun time while you’re at it!

CALENDAR

Freedom Forum, 9:30 a.m., Feb. 4
Communion, 11 a.m., Feb. 5
Soul Food Luncheon, 12:30 p.m.,
Feb. 5
Session meets, 7 p.m., Feb. 7
Worship Committee, 5:30 p.m.,
Feb. 8
Faith in Action, 5 p.m., Feb. 9
Guest Preacher, Judge William
Chapman, 11 a.m., Feb. 12
Invitational Team, 5:30 p.m., Feb.
13
Presidents’ Day, Office Closed,
Feb. 13
Washington Heights Blueprint
Team, 5 p.m., Feb. 14
Washington Heights Neighborhood
Association, 7 p.m., Feb. 14
Staff Meeting, noon, Feb. 15

UD Pasta Dinner, 5 p.m., Feb. 15
Women’s Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.,
Feb. 16
Food Pantry Collection, 11 a.m.,
Feb. 19
Guest Preacher, Rev. J. B. Red-
ding, 11 a.m., Feb. 19
Gospel Vespers, 4 p.m., Feb. 19
Deacons meet, 5:45 p.m., Feb. 20
Theology on Tap, 7:30 p.m., Feb.
21
Stewardship Committee, 7 p.m.,
Feb. 23
Mardis Gras Worship Service, 11
a.m., Feb. 26

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