

THE HANOVER HERALD

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



A vertical crack in the brick at the outside corner of the education wing, near the Jefferson Street entrance, has been a source of speculation and some concern, for several years. It did not seem to be a serious structural hazard, but all agreed the crack had expanded and could be an entry point for moisture, which is never a good thing for a building. The crack had been patched in the past. Instead of patching again, Paul's Pointing replaced the cracked brick and mortar, attempting to match the old brick and mortar as closely as possible. The match is excellent. The sign for Open Arms and the Church Office was also raised by about 18 inches. It is more visible and folks landscaping or cleaning under the sign won't hit their heads any more!



Celebrate Holy Week at Hanover

Palm Sunday, 11 a.m., April 9
Maundy Thursday Service, 7 p.m., April 13
Good Friday Service, 7 p.m., April 14
Sunrise Service, 7 a.m., Sunday, April 16
Resurrection Sunday, with Communion,
11 a.m., April 16

Dancing, Art Coming to Hanover

One of the most active ministries Hanover offers to the community is the use of our building. Throughout the average month, we see organizations using the Gathering Place, the Church School Hall, the Ed Wing, and the gym in their own efforts and initiatives. This spring, we welcome two organizations and their good works under our roof!

The first to arrive is Dance with Parkinson's Disease. On Wednesday afternoons, April through May, Dance with PD will be filling our Church School Hall with music and dance for adults who have been diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease.

The second is a Youth Art Exhibit through Pacem in Terris. In the Fall of 2016, Pacem in Terris began collecting artwork created by young people K-12th grade that answers the question, "What does a peaceful world look like? What should we older citizens be working toward?" The Art Exhibit is now touring our area and has been featured at the Delaware Center for Contemporary Art. We will unveil the artwork Easter Sunday, and it will remain in the Church School Hall until May 3.

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

Thinking About The Wilderness

Dear Diary,

Sorry it's been so long since I've checked in with you. Seeing how we just passed the halfway point in the Lenten journey, I figured this was a good time to catch up with you.

Since I know I can trust you, I will tell you that lately I've been feeling like I'm not making much progress in getting through the wilderness. If I'm honest, I've been feeling like I've been going deeper into the wilderness; even wondering whether I will get out. I've started to fear that the wilderness is here to stay.

At church we're being asked to think about our stories; about the times we've encountered the presence, love, and grace of Jesus in our lives. We've been encouraged to think about the songs that flow from our stories. I confess that lately I've been connecting more with the Psalmist's desperate songs about losing the things the people of Israel held as sacred.

So much is challenging the things that I believe we hold as sacred. Plans are being made to give to those who have so much already even more, while taking from those who are already struggling. We are retreating from conversations that seek to build bridges in favor of constructing orders, borders, and walls. We're turning scripture upside down with plans to turn ploughshares into intercontinental swords, and pruning hooks into ballistic spears. Instead of valuing and rejoicing in our diversity, the focus has become how to keep "those people" out of "our" communities. And through it all we don't know what we can trust or whom we can believe. Even the definition of "truth" has become a subject of debate.

All to say I've been thinking a lot about what and where is the wilderness.

Last week I took part in several conversations about opening our doors and hearts to refugees. I was in our Gathering Place two mornings as people received food and clothing. I attended two different

rallies where God's rainbow people came together to voice their commitment to work for a world in which all are honored, welcomed, protected, and respected. Twice I gathered with others to talk about people in our scriptures, comparing their Jesus encounters with our own.

Then, last night I had the most amazing evening. I went out with some close friends and we ate, drank, and made merry. We shared our stories, and even a couple of songs. The evening ended late but too soon, and when it was over I felt rejuvenated, revived, and renewed.

So, dear diary, here's what I'm thinking about the wilderness . . .

Maybe it's true that as long as we are in the world, we are in the wilderness.

Maybe, however, what matters is not that we're in the wilderness, but that the wilderness is in us.

Maybe the purpose of Lent—and life—is not so much for us to get out of the wilderness, but to get the wilderness out of us.

Maybe, just maybe, the way we conquer the wilderness is from the inside out.

So, this past week got me to thinking: maybe we are each other's antidote for the wilderness.

In each of those moments in the last week, it was through interactions with others that my wilderness sense of being lost, alone, isolated, and afraid was driven back.

It makes perfect sense when you read the temptation story in the gospels. After Jesus faces down the devil we read that "angels came and waited on him." It was the companionship of the angels that allowed Jesus to purge his inner struggle so that he could emerge from the wilderness.

So, here's my plan for the second half of Lent. I'm going to take every chance I can to be with others. I'm going to strive to help others overcome their wildernesses, even as I open myself to let others do the same for me.

Thank you for listening, and I'll be talking with you soon.

Peace,
Andy

MUSIC MATTERS

The Hanover Drum is enjoying a jump start! We gather on Sundays following the worship service for a half hour of "rhythmic reflection and community" – no experience required. Please join us after you've gotten your coffee and treat! And, be looking for a guest drum circle and seminar in April or May!

Lent and Easter bring forth an inspiring season for music. The stories we hear, along with the music, all uplift the word of God. On Good Friday we will have a Tenebrae-style service, with the choir and soloists. On Easter Day, we have a quartet that leads the Sunrise service; at Morning Worship, we have the choir along with guest trumpeter, Greg Harris.

Be sure to check the Holy Week schedule to see the opportunities to walk with Jesus on his journey to our salvation.

Soli deo Gloria (To God alone the glory),

—*Twyla*

Hot Dog Cart Returns

Hopefully, no April showers will rain on our opening of the Sidewalk Café on Tuesday, April 4! We will be back in business with hot dogs, hamburgers, snacks, drinks and water ice. Please stop by and sit a spell with us! We will be open from 10 – 1. See you there!

A Celebration of Trees

Join Faith in Action on Sunday, April 30, as we celebrate God's Creation through a special worship service honoring God's creation and recommitting ourselves to care for it. The theme this year is Trees: roots, trunks, and leaves.



FINANCE REPORT

At the March Session meeting, the treasurer's report through the end of January 2017 (8 percent of the year) was reviewed. Our combined pledged and unpledged regular income totaled \$27,228, which is 15 percent of the budget goal for the year. The current regular income exceeds our expenses by approximately \$3,796. Good news! We budgeted \$3,800 for our 2017 per capita goal. As of the end of January, we received \$367 toward that goal. In 2017, Hanover will pay \$5,697 in per capita to support its connections with the work of the Presbyterian Church all around the world. All of our members can support those wider connections by paying their per capita (\$31.65 per member), which offsets the cost to Hanover.

The Finance Committee met in March and recommended some revisions to the 2017 budget. We increased the combined pledged and unpledged income by 5 percent from 2016 to \$176,000, based on the 2016 year-end actual figures. We also increased the budgeted amount for our loose offering by 4 percent from 2016 to \$10,000, based on the

year-end actual figures. We also included the revised figures for the full-time church administrator position (\$32,778) and the part-time church sexton position (\$20,982). Finance and Session recognize there will continue to be some adjustments, as the sexton position has not yet been filled. Session approved the revised budget. — *Ellen Casson*

Female Harmony News

The Female Harmony Society oversees the income from a bequest that can be used primarily for projects serving the "poor" of Wilmington. Grants are around \$1,000. Last year grants were awarded to the Hanover food pantry and discipleship classes and to groups that provide support for: the homeless, children being raised by grandparents, young adults transitioning out of foster care, and men returning to the community after having been in prison. Grant applications will go out soon. If you know of a non-profit organization that might apply for a grant, contact Maggie Alexander at MaggieA19@verizon.net.

Book Discussion Group

Hanover's Book Club will meet on Wednesday, May 10 at 5:30 for a soup and salad supper and a discussion of *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide*, by Carol Anderson, which won a National Book Critics Circle award in 2016.

In this short but challenging work, historian Carol Anderson examines some of the powerful and negative reactions to the progress of African-Americans in our country that have impacted and limited that progress. She suggests that it is "white rage at work. With so much attention on the flames, everyone had ignored the kindling."

Since 1865, whenever African-Americans have made progress to fuller participation in our democracy, white reaction has rolled back some of their gains. She examines the Black Codes and Jim Crow; the Supreme Court's 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The book is compelling and dramatic in the history it relates and it is expected that it will add a new dimension to our national conversation about race.

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

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, April 2**



Hanover Street Presbyterian Church
 1801 N. Jefferson Street
 Wilmington, DE 19802
 (302) 658-5114
 Address Service Requested



Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 Wilmington, DE
 Permit #45

SUPER! SALE!

Saturday, May 6, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

***Baked Goods ♦ Household Items ♦ Furniture ♦ Books and Records ♦ Toys ♦ Plants
 50/50 Raffle and Prizes ♦ Jewelry and Clothing ♦ Nearly New and Never Used
 Collectibles ♦ Holiday and Seasonal Items ♦ Lots of Great Food ♦ Fun for all ages!***

CALENDAR

Session, 7 p.m., Tuesday, April 4
 Lenten Soup Supper, 5:30 p.m.,
 Wednesday, April 5
 Palm Sunday, 11 a.m., April 9
 Invitational Team, 5:30 p.m., Mon-
 day, April 10
 Washington Heights Neighborhood
 Association, 7 p.m., Tuesday,
 April 11
 Faith in Action, 5 p.m., Thursday,
 April 12
 Maundy Thursday Service, 7 p.m.,
 April 13
 Good Friday Service, 7 p.m., April
 14
 Sunrise Service, 7 a.m., Sunday,
 April 16
 Resurrection Sunday, Communion,
 Food Pantry Collection, 11 a.m.,

April 16
 Pacem in Terris Youth Art Exhibit,
 Sunday, April 16 through May 3
 Deacons, 5:45 p.m., Monday, April
 17
 Office closed, Easter Monday, April
 17
 Theology on Tap, 7:30 p.m., Tues-
 day, April 18
 Staff Meeting, noon, Wednesday,
 April 19
 UD Pasta Dinner, 5 p.m., Wednes-
 day, April 19
 Women's Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.,
 Thursday, April 20
 Stewardship Committee, 7 p.m.,
 Thursday, April 27
 Creation Care Sunday, 11 a.m.,
 April 30

April Birthdays

- 1 Levi Moore
- 2 Tom Baker
- 3 Judy Werner
- 5 Romain Alexander
- 6 Rick Bayard
- 8 Alexandra Evitts
- 10 Alice Davis
Nona Holy
- 12 Carolyn Klawitter
- 14 Norris Cramer
- 19 Karen Ingram
- 22 Dawn Silicki
- 23 James Rosa
- 26 Kevin Davenport
Beth Undercuffler