

THE HANOVER HERALD

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



Again this year, Hanover's Faith in Action has wrapped the trees along the streets beside the church. The wraps were inspired by monks in Thailand, who in the 1990s adapted the traditional ceremony that is used to ordain Buddhist monks to help local villagers make a commitment to protect the environment. The cloth represents monks' robes; as the monks are ordained and of God, and not to be harmed, so are the trees.

Monks in Thailand continue to call attention to environmental degradation, acting to preserve vanishing forests, watersheds, and wildlife. Large areas of old growth forest—trees hundreds of years old—have been saved. When the king of Thailand celebrated the 60th anniversary of his coronation in 2006, he asked people all over the country to ordain old trees in his honor.

Hanover Gets a Sexton

At the regular monthly meeting of the Session, in response to the Sexton hiring team's recommendation, the elders unanimously approved calling Herman Pulliam as Hanover's next Sexton. Herman's vocational experience, service to (and deep knowledge of) Hanover's building and grounds, and his dedicated service to the congregation over many years made him an ideal candidate.

The position will be part time. The current schedule, subject to adjustment, is for him to be in the church Sunday to Friday, 8 a.m. to noon, beginning in July.

With great anticipation, we look forward to welcoming Herman in this new role, and pray God's continued blessings upon his service.



Coffee House Returns June 3

Please join your neighbors and friends for good food, conversation, music and readings at Jeremiah's Coffee House on Saturday, June 3, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

It's a good opportunity to show your gifts and talents to a receptive (and forgiving) audience. There will also be an open microphone, so you never know what to expect, whether it is art, poetry, dance, singing or playing an instrument, anything goes. We hope we'll see you there with your neighbors and friends.

Summer's Coming: Sunday Worship Moves to 10 a.m. on May 28

Experience Hope

Dear Diary,
Happy Easter!
The tomb is empty!
He is Risen!
Alleluia!

I wanted this to be the first thing you hear from me this time because I'm still rejoicing in the good news and the celebration from a couple of weeks ago. Pastor keeps telling us, "Easter is a season!", and I think I'm finally starting to believe it, and even beginning to feel that way!

When I re-read what I wrote last time I realized how desperate it sounded. I don't regret what I wrote about all the bad things happening in the world, and I don't deny it was the truth about how I felt when I wrote it, but I realize now that it was partly the result of being in the midst of Lent. I had followed Jesus into the wilderness, and then found out how much I could relate to his fear and temptation.

Now that I've had the Easter experience, I have not just more perspective, but more hope. God is so wise about how the seasons work together. Before fully understanding the empty cross and tomb, we first have to experience the wilderness. I had to stand at the mouth of the empty tomb to realize that you always have the last word; and that

New Member Gatherings

With joy, gratitude and anticipation, another series of new member gatherings has been scheduled. After worship on May 7, 14, and 21 all who are interested in becoming an active member of the congregation are invited to gather in the Pastor's office. This is a three-step process that is a part of becoming a member, but participation is also invited for any who are interested in knowing more about Hanover. Each gathering will take about 1½ hours and the focus is on the prospective new members themselves, the Presbyterian Church, and Hanover in particular. We will joyously receive those who decide to join into membership in our Pentecost service June 4 at Fox Point State Park.

your word is love.

Speaking of the empty tomb, I realized something this Easter. It occurred to me when I looked into the empty tomb with Mary, Peter, and the other disciple that it was absolutely about Jesus, and his not being there. But, just as much, it is about me (and I would imagine all of us).

The empty tomb is about the things that we become emptied of when Jesus is raised. When the disciples finally realized what had happened, they were freed from their grief, confusion, anxiety and fear. Because the tomb no longer held Jesus, they were able to let go of all of the things that would inhibit them from following the risen Christ. God gives us Easter so that we might experience here and now what it promised forevermore: new hope and new life.

Yes, dear diary, there is still so much wilderness in the world. Yet, more than ever, I believe in God's power to fill us by emptying us, in this season and in all of our seasons to come. Alleluia, and may it be so . . . Peace, *Andy*

FINANCE REPORT

At the April Session meeting, the treasurer's report through the end of February 2017 (16 percent of the year) was reviewed. Our combined pledged and unpledged regular income totaled \$41,760, which is 24 percent of the budget for the year. The current regular income exceeds expenses by approximately \$5,212.

On behalf of Hanover and the finance committee, Ray Kirkpatrick and Ellen Casson attended a meeting with a financial advisor to discuss investment options. The finance committee will be meeting in May to review the recommendations.—*Ellen Casson*

Thank You

to all who contributed to the worship services during the Lenten/Easter season. To all who wrote first-person accounts of Biblical characters, to those who presented the stories during worship, to singers and their leader, we appreciate your talents.

Here's what's going on in music at Hanover:

Musical guests: At the end of the month, on Sunday, May 28, we have a group of drummers from Saints Andrew and Matthew's Drumming Circle joining us for worship at 10 a.m. They, along with their director, Jonathan Whitney, will spend time with the Hanover Drum Circle immediately following worship – everyone is welcome to join in and listen to some great drumming and some wonderful instructions on how to use drums in worship.

Sunday, June 4, we are down at the river at Fox Point State Park, and The Dixie Ramblers will be worshipping with us—they always make our services very special.

Jeremiah Coffee House: Be sure to read the article about our musical evening in the Jeremiah Coffee House—a fun, relaxed evening of good food and good music.

As we head into the summer months, please consider offering your musical talents to our worship services – you can sign up with me at any time, and I would be happy to help you. As always, we give our gifts, and . . .

Soli deo Gloria (To God alone the glory).

—*Twyla*

Female Harmony Meets

The annual meeting of the Female Harmony Society will be held on Saturday, June 10. We will be gathering at Covenant Presbyterian Church starting at 9 a.m. with a light breakfast and fellowship. Our business meeting will begin at 10.

The mission statement of the FHS reads: "Inspired by 200 years of service to Delaware's underserved, especially children, the Female Harmony Society continues to strengthen our community by supporting families through community partnerships, financial support and educational advocacy."

We welcome all who would like to help us in this endeavor. Anyone wanting to find out more about the society, please call Becky Arnold, Nona Holy or Maggie Alexander.

CALENDAR

Session, 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 2
Super Sale, 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Saturday, May 6
Communion in Worship, 11 a.m., Sunday, May 7
New Members Class, 12:30 p.m., Sunday, May 7
Family Promise Volunteer Week, May 7-14
Invitational Team, 5:30 p.m., Monday, May 8
Coalition to End New Jim Crow: Jewelry Pick-up, 6 p.m., Tuesday, May 9
Washington Heights Neighborhood Association, 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 9
Worship Committee, 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 10
Faith in Action, 5 p.m., Thursday, May 11
Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14
New Members Class, 12:30 p.m., Sunday, May 14
Deacons, 5:45 p.m., Monday, May 15
Theology on Tap, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 16
Staff Meeting, 12 p.m., Wednesday, May 17
UD Pasta Dinner, 5 p.m., Wednesday, May 17
Finance Committee, 7 p.m., Wednesday, May 17
Women's Bible Study, 12:30 p.m., Thursday, May 18
Food Pantry Collection in Worship, 11 a.m., Sunday, May 21
New Members Class, 12:30 p.m., Sunday, May 21
Office Closed, Memorial Day, Monday, May 29
Book Group, White Rage, 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 31
Jeremiah Coffee House, 5:30 p.m., Saturday, June 3
Pentecost, Church Picnic at Fox Point, 10 a.m., Sunday, June 4

Continuing Events

Bridge Club, Thursdays at 7 p.m.
Clothing Closet, Tuesdays at 9 a.m.
Food Pantry, Thursdays at 8:30 a.m.
Zumba classes, Tuesdays at 6 p.m. and Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.
Yoga group, Fridays at 6:15 p.m.

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

Sign Up Now for the Church Picnic on June 6

Annual Church Picnic is Sunday, June 6, at Fox Point State Park. We will begin with service at 10 a.m. and the picnic will follow. Look for the sign-up sheet in the Church School Hall during coffee hour; let us know if you plan to come and what food item you will bring to share. Hot dogs and hamburgers, drinks and paper products will be provided. There is a fee to enter the park.



Hanover's three middle schoolers (Chris, Jacob and Judy) are excited to be returning to Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference this summer for "All Together Now" Middle School Conference 2017, June 22-25. The theme of this year's conference is Galatians 3:28-29. The four-day conference is filled with worship, recreation, group activities, workshops, good camp food, and lots and lots of ENERGY! Campers and their chaperones are grateful for the financial support from the Female Harmony Society and invite the prayers of the Hanover Family for safe travels and another awesome conference.

Date Change for Book Discussion Group

Due to a scheduling conflict, Hanover's Book Club will meet on Wednesday, May 31 at 5:30 (rather than May 10) to discuss *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide*, by Carol Anderson. We will still plan to have a soup and salad supper along with the discussion.

We hope you will join us as we reflect upon some of the powerful and negative reactions to the progress of African-Americans in our country that have impacted and limited that progress. Anderson suggests that "white rage" is at work. When African Americans have made progress, white reaction has rolled back some of their gains. The book looks at 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. Looking at this compelling and dramatic history adds a new dimension to our national and indeed our local conversations about race.

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SUPER! SALE!
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Saturday,
May 6
9 a.m. to 1 p.m.