

THE HANOVER HERALD

A newsletter for the people
of Hanover Presbyterian Church,
Wilmington, Delaware
July/August 2017



Three Hanover young people (from left), Jacob Arnold, Chris Jacob and Judy van Rooyen, attended the Middle School Conference at the Massanetta Springs conference center in June. They shared their experience with the congregation, and thanked the Female Harmony Society for making their trip possible.

Female Harmony Society Awards 7 Grants

The Female Harmony Society has awarded grants to seven organizations in our region to support programs that provide assistance to people with limited resources. Funding was provided to the following groups:

- YWCA of Delaware, to support the life skills and job training program which is part of the Home Life Management Center (\$1,000)
- STEHM (Supportive Transitional Emergency Housing Ministry), to help people with expenses during the first month as they move into independent housing (\$1,000)
- Delaware HIV Consortium, to stock its personal care items closet with items such as shampoo, lotion, toilet paper and household cleaning supplies, which assists people with extremely low income who are living with AIDS (\$500)
- Generations Home Care, to provide assistance with the cost of co-pays for transportation for dis-

abled and elderly people (\$500)

- Hanover Youth Discipleship, enabling Hanover youth to attend the Synod Middle School camp (\$1,200)
- Lutheran Community Services, to purchase food for distribution through its food pantries (\$1,000)
- St. Helena's Parish Outreach, for assistance with rent and utilities to low-income families (\$1,000)

Peace Week Event Plans

The Faith in Action committee will host an interfaith program during Wilmington Peace Week, Sept. 17-24. Our event is scheduled on Sunday, Sept. 24. We are seeking your thoughts on faith traditions that you would like represented at this upcoming event. Please send your comments to Karin Wilson, Chair, Faith in Action Committee, at kfmadison583@msn.com or drop them in her folder in the office.

Hanover VBS Reading Classics New and Old

We are never too young or old for a good children's book. During this year's intergenerational Vacation Bible School series we will reminisce about our favorite children's books and read new "classics" as we explore biblical lessons.

Join us as we read anew such lessons as loving our neighbor and treating people who are different with respect, and explore how different perspectives inform and shape our faith. We anticipate that these books will spark meaningful conversations. May we "never grow so old, or change so much, that we can't find room in our hearts for the wisdom of children's books." (Judith Viorst)

This year's Vacation Bible School will be held July 31 through Aug. 4. We will gather at Tim and Becky Arnold's for swimming and a potluck meal (5:30-6:30) followed by a good story, Bible Study, and fellowship. We wrap up around 8-8:15. Questions? Contact Nancy Long at officepcoc@aol.com or 893-3682.

Flower Donor Change

At the Deacons' meeting in July it was decided that we will offer an alternative to flower donations starting in September. We often find that after church on Sunday, it is difficult to find people who would like to have the flowers or places to take them. Many times whoever does want them forgets them and they are left at church. This suggested change will not impact the poinsettias at Christmas or the flowers at Easter, and anyone who would like to do so may still donate flowers on any given Sunday. Just call the church office to let us know and we

Continued on Page 2

Jeremiah's Coffee House—Saturday, Sept. 9, 5:30 p.m.

Trusting, Trust

*God put a new song in my mouth,
a song of praise to our God.
Many will see and fear,
and put their trust in the Lord.*

—Psalm 40:3

In the stock market of virtues, trust has become a rare commodity. Daily our papers and screens are filled with examples of tensions, conflicts, and controversies that have at their root our lack of investment in trust. In some cases, a lack of trust is justifiable. In others, the infraction is so small that it is passed over and forgotten. And yet in so many cases, entire communities, and even nations, are experiencing upheaval for a lack of someone to trust.

I recently had an experience that is admittedly trivial in nature. And yet it continues to inspire me to believe that even the smallest acts of trust matter. Each and every “small” act of trust has the potential to feed a next one; creating a redemptive cycle of transformation.

Several nights ago we went for the first time this summer to one of our favorite family places. We got sixth row seats behind the third base dugout to see the Salem Red Sox take on our Blue Rocks. The weather was perfect, the people around us delightful, and the crowd was pumped as much for the post game fireworks as the contest itself.

As is my custom, I made my way to the concession stand at the end of the third inning for the obligatory peanuts and cold beverage. When I came to the counter I put the peanuts down and made my beverage request. With a sigh she told me that they had just run out, but that it would be restocked in just a few minutes; would I like to come back? I agreed. Then I picked up the peanuts to put them back on the shelf. That's when it happened. She looked at me and in all sincerity (and with deep compassion for an obvious peanut fanatic), she said, “Oh, no, take it with you and pay for both when you come back.” I

walked slowly back to my seat feeling stunned and grateful.

When I returned in the middle of the fourth, there she was with my first-choice beverage and a large smile. I thanked her profusely, and shared how refreshing her act of trust made me feel.

So, one might respond, what's the big deal? A ball game. A bag of peanuts. A total stranger. In the book of life this isn't even a footnote.

That's the point. Just as it is with love, joy, peace, and hope, so it is with trust. The bridge of trust between people is built one cable strand at a time. Eventually it is the weaving of the strands that give the cable the strength to suspend the whole bridge.

Trust is the fundamental and foundational building block for all relationships. It is nearly impossible to engage authentically when trust is lacking; if one is not able to engage, then communication ceases, and, ultimately, relationships end. And yet when trust is present, there are no canyons that cannot be crossed.

The Psalmist knew this lesson, and especially how important it is in our relationship with God. To place our trust in God does not mean that there will not be bumps and detours along the avenue of life. What deep trust in God does mean is that we know we are never alone; that even in our darkest moments we are surrounded and supported by the love and grace of our Creator.

May we open our hearts to receive from and offer trust to one another, even as our trust in God sustains us each day. —Peace, *Andy*

Blue Rocks Signup

The annual summer outing to the Wilmington Blue Rocks will be Saturday, Aug. 19, when the Rocks play the Myrtle Beach Pelicans at 7:05 p.m. It is Star Wars Night and the Blue Rocks will wear special Star Wars jerseys that will be auctioned after the game. “Galactic” baseballs will be given away to the first 1,000 fans. The sign-up sheet is in the church school hall and tickets will be available on Aug. 6.

At the June Session meeting, the treasurer's report through the end of April 2017 (33 percent of the year) was reviewed. Our combined pledged and unpledged regular income totaled \$74,418, which is 42 percent of the budget goal for the year. This is very good news, as is the fact that the per capita income is 38 percent of our budgeted amount. Our regular income exceeded our expenses by approximately \$3,234.

The Session also approved a motion from the Finance Committee recommending that Hanover invest at least \$200,000 in a balanced portfolio of stocks and bonds. This will include the \$25,257 raised in Hanover's 200 for 200 Campaign. The Finance Committee has consulted with a professional investment adviser and has discussed this at several meetings. The consensus is investing some of Hanover's funds, at this time, in a balanced portfolio, is the best way to grow Hanover's assets and invest in the long term future of the church. —*Ellen Casson*

Flower Donations

Continued from Page 1

will order them as always.

We would like to suggest that instead of donating money to pay for flowers, our donations would go into Hanover's fund raising account which is used to support our many ministries. There would still be a listing in the bulletin each Sunday of the name(s) of those in whose memory or honor donations are being made. This would also allow for more individuals who would like to donate in memory of someone on a particular date to do so. Any donation would be strictly up to the individual making it. If you would like to make a monetary donation in September and going forward, please call the church office.

If you would still like to donate flowers, please call Becky Arnold at 584-0356.

Deacons' Luncheon

Save the Date! Sunday, Sept. 17 will be our Annual Deacons' Luncheon. We will be recognizing two individuals who have been members of the Hanover family for 50 years! Please plan on joining us for this time of fellowship and celebration of your place at Hanover, however many years that might be.

CALENDAR

Theology on Tap, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, July 18
UD Pasta Dinner, 5 p.m., Thursday, July 20
From Surviving to Thriving, 7 p.m., Monday, July 24
Vacation Bible School, 5:30 p.m., Monday, July 31 through Thursday, Aug. 3
Stewardship Committee, 7 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 3
Communion in Worship, 10 a.m., Sunday, Aug. 6
Session, 7 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 8
Faith in Action, 5 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 10
Invitational Team, 5:30 p.m., Monday, Aug. 14
From Surviving to Thriving, 7 p.m., Monday, Aug. 14
Theology on Tap, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 15
Staff Meeting, noon, Wednesday, Aug. 16
UD Pasta Dinner, 5 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 16
Food Pantry Collection in Worship, 10 a.m., Sunday, Aug. 20
Worship Committee, 5:45 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 23
From Surviving to Thriving, 7 p.m., Monday, Aug. 28
Communion in Worship, 10 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 3
Office Closed, Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 4
Session, 7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 5
Jeremiah Coffee House, 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 9
Worship returns to regular schedule, 11 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 10

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

Hanover Presbyterian Church • Wilmington, Delaware

Refugee Family Settling into Their New Lives

The refugee family Hanover is helping to sponsor has been making major strides in adjusting to their new lives. Dad, who already has a good level of English skills, has found employment that's well-suited to his capabilities and previous training. Mom is working hard on her English, meeting with tutors twice a week at Hanover and several other times during the week at other venues. Their elementary school-aged daughter is also receiving English tutoring help, with the

goal of bring her up to grade level within a year.

Both girls were given a wonderful opportunity to attend the Jewish Community Center day camp for the summer on scholarship. This gift has introduced them to many new aspects of our U.S. culture, and they are truly enjoying swimming, crafts, and, most exciting and helpful, fun social interactions which will prepare them for their futures here.

Two other refugee families have arrived in Delaware since Hanover began its involvement. These folks are being sponsored by another trio of faith communities, but there are still significant areas in which they could use our support. Hanover has been helping Delaware's refugees with both clothing and food. Ironically, this assistance becomes particularly important at a time when a refugee acquires a first job, as government subsidies then drop off but the family is not yet quite ready for independence, so this support will continue for a while.

We could also use a few more drivers to give rides to dental and doctor appointments and the like. Please contact hanoverhosts@gmail.com for details, if you feel you could give a hand in this way.

July Birthdays

2 Peter Arnold
 Sam Arnold
 3 Theo Gregory
 5 Jerri Harmon
 Darren Undercuffler
 6 Ruth Howell
 7 Becky Arnold
 Nia Evans
 9 Tammy Beamer
 13 Emma Psomas
 14 Marybeth Auld
 15 MaryJo Penna
 Ayinde Truxon Flores
 Tracey Turner
 18 Diane Murphy
 Bill Tudor
 20 Leandra Moore
 26 Rick Melvin
 27 Robert Poirier
 28 Bill Balascio
 Jude Quinn
 30 Matthia McCracken
 31 Barbara Coleman
 31 Sophia Moore

August Birthdays

11 Terry Gross
 Brett Pulliam
 Marshae Pulliam-Bibbs
 13 JoAnne Rosa
 Eleanor Warren
 15 Brittany Peterson
 Karin Wilson
 16 Sue Anderson
 18 Libby Heiks
 Norma Reid
 Michael Zankowsky
 22 George Tanker
 24 Bruce Showalter
 25 Betsy Harlan
 29 Leon Wilson
 Michele Zistl
 30 Jack Heiks

Help Family Promise

In October, Hanover will host a family for one week. We need volunteers throughout the week for various duties. If you are interested, please reach out to Beth Undercuffler at bethundercuffler@gmail.com.

As you may know, Beth has coordinated the Family Promise program for Hanover since we began participating. However, Beth will resign from this position later this year. We would like to pass the torch to one or two people. If you like the hospitality we show, intermittent requirements, and are people-oriented this is the project for you. No committee meetings required! Contact Karin Wilson, Chair, Faith in Action committee, at kfmadison583@msn.com.

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

Enjoy the Summer!

Please remember that Hanover's expenses do not take a vacation. Keeping up-to-date with your pledge is vital to meeting our budget through the summer.

Thank You from your Stewardship Committee

**The Female Harmony Society
Invites One and All
to a
Fall Tea
with Julia Child**

**Saturday, Oct. 7,
3 - 5 p.m.**

Please come enjoy this afternoon of friendship around the tables and a performance by actress Linda Kenyon, appearing as Julia Child.

Scones, finger sandwiches and tea will be catered by the Home Life Management Program of the YWCA, one of the Society's 2017 grant recipients.



This is a wonderful opportunity to introduce friends and family to Hanover and the Female Harmony Society!

Tickets: \$10