

THE HANOVER HERALD

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



Seven representatives of various faith traditions gathered at Hanover on Sept. 24 for Interfaith Conversations. It was one of more than 50 events in Peace Week Delaware sponsored by the Movement for a Culture of Peace.

Those Heavy Old Tables? They're History

Members of Session approved a motion from Church Life to use money raised through the Super Sale for new tables to replace the current eight half rounds and two of the rectangle inserts. The old tables weigh a ton – 45 pounds per half round and 50 pounds per insert, to be precise. The veneer is falling off and they are difficult to move and difficult to store, as any of you who have had to set them up and break them down can attest.

The new tables are 30 pounds and offer flexibility for many different functions. Having the 30" x 60" rectangles as inserts allows us to create 2 large oblong tables for meetings and for social functions and two inserts between two half rounds can be a nice conference table. Many thanks to Nancy Long and Presbyterian Church of the Covenant where we were able to see and lift the tables and know they are of good quality.

Community Cafes and Pasta Dinners Return

Now that the new school year has begun, Project Launch has started Community Cafes on the fourth Tuesday of each month. The Female Harmony Society is again providing suppers for the group. Just another of the many "partnerships" going on at Hanover these days!

Speaking of partnerships, our third-Wednesday Pasta Dinners have started up again as well. In September the University of Dela-

ware volunteers helped with the meal and we had around 20 guests. On Oct. 19 we will be joined by another partner—the Parents As Teachers group that often uses the gym for programs involving parents and children. Dinner will begin at 5 and then at 6, the families will move to the gym for "Pajama Night." We invite Hanover members to come and meet our neighbors and friends around the table!

Matthia McCracken Leaving Hanover Office

Matthia McCracken has offered her letter of resignation as our church administrator. She leaves us to assume the position of director of administration at Congregation Beth Shalom, our neighbors across Baynard Boulevard. We receive this letter with great regret; knowing how deeply we will miss her presence, service, and spirit.

At the same time we rejoice with Matthia. This is a wonderful opportunity for her to expand her skills and assume a larger set of responsibilities. Let us hold her transition in our prayers; that she would be strengthened by the very same spirit that has called her to a new place.

The Personnel Committee has a meeting on the calendar to outline the plan and process to fill the church administrator position. The goal is to create a process that is quick and efficient without sacrificing thoroughness. Also, during the time of transition we are seeking folks who are willing to volunteer to staff the office. If you've ever had the urge to hone your administrative skills, give me a call!

In this time of transition and mixed emotions, may the presence and the guidance of the spirit continue to bring us comfort and . . . peace.—Andy

All Saints Day Service

During our 11 a.m. worship on Sunday, Nov. 5, we will remember our family members and friends who have entered into eternal life this past year. We will light candles in memory of them and offer special prayers for their relatives and friends. Come and join in our annual service of prayer, remembrance, and support for each other.

Female Harmony Fall Tea with Julia Child: Saturday, Oct. 7, 3 p.m.

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

Called to Order

... but all things should be done decently and in order.

—I Corinthians 14:40

There it is! The classic joke, critique, shtick, and rap about Presbyterians. Thanks, Paul . . . !

Even if we resist—or perhaps resent—the notion, we need to acknowledge the truth that we are a people who plan and prepare to a fault, and remain obsessed with process. Yes, we often tie ourselves in knots with parliamentary procedure, and lose our way in endless loops of meetings, conversations, deliberations, and discussions.

As trying as our process may be, I wouldn't trade it for the world. Yes, at moments the pace of action and change is frustrating. What slows our pace is our commitment to including more people in the decision-making process. As opposed to a polity in which individuals make decisions for the body, our system values the body so highly that it is incorporated into all of our processes. Our officers (elders and deacons) are chosen by the people to lead us. Our ministers are not assigned by some adjudicatory body, but chosen by the congregational body. Our committees are comprised of people who are members and friends of the congregation. Praise God, our whole Presbyterian system is predicated upon the conviction that it is the people who lead, guide, and direct the journey of a congregation.

One of the most visible and meaningful examples of this is in the very structure of our congregation. It is through our committees that we live into our mission and purpose.

In this, the busiest season for our committees, I would offer these reflections upon the work of each one, coupled with gratitude for every person who serves on them.

In the coming days, you will receive a packet from your Stewardship Committee. In it you will find a letter you receive each year with an appeal and information about the stewardship drive in November

to support our annual budget through your pledges. Even more, there will be a just-off-the-press publication *Stewardship in Life and in Death* that provides information and direction about making plans for what will happen at the end of our earthly lives.

October is a particularly active one for our Finance Committee as the members will be busy crafting the budget for 2018 so that it can be approved by Session in November. As you would imagine, this process is neither quick nor simple. Let us hold their deliberations and discussions in our prayers: that they would receive wisdom and creativity to plan for the faithful use of all the resources we have received from God's hand.

The Church Life Committee will continue to plan for events and programs that bring us together to experience blessed fellowship and pure enjoyment. Check the church calendar for the Jeremiah Coffee Houses and our Christmas events.

Praise God for our Nominating Committee as they gear up for crunch time! An elected deacon and elder and two at-large congregation members are meeting as we speak to lay out the process to fill the vacancies that will happen at the end of this year.

And please keep the Property Committee in your prayers as the members continue to gather information about a mind-boggling list of building issues so they might be prioritized. At the same time, this group juggles the never-ending list of building use requests.

With the resignation of Matthia McCracken, the Personnel Committee will be spending many hours in the coming days creating the process that will lead to calling of our next church administrator. Please keep their work and discernment in your prayers; that it would lead us to the person God has already chosen to serve with us.

God bless our Discipleship Committee as they launch this new church school year. Throughout the year there are five different groups that meet each Sunday. A huge task

in and of itself, the members also plan the Advent and Lent soup and supper programs, and partner with the Faith in Action Committee to offer the book group. And if you have any interest in working with our children and youth, this is a great to act on the impulse!

What would a church be without its Worship Committee?! Praise God for the group of Saints who meet regularly to plan the specifics of our worship experience, as well as the larger seasonal themes. The group also oversees the funding and finances associated with our many special programs, supplies and services.

Let us praise the ongoing work of the Faith in Action Committee. Its call is to keep us accountable to the peace and justice Christ died to deliver. Much energy is spent creating and nurturing partnerships with other groups, organizations, and movements that are equally committed to putting our faith into action. The members also work hard to provide information to the congregation about various social and economic issues, so that we would actively engage them with both hearts and minds.

Now, to the shameless pitch, ask, and request. On each and every one of our committees there is room for more people at the table! If, after reading this, you are interested in, or would consider serving on, one of our committees, please call me or the church office.

May God bless those who pray, plan, and lead us with faith, patience, and courage. And may God guide our footsteps on the path to freedom and justice.—Peace, *Andy*

October Birthdays

- 6 Isheta Smith
- 8 Charlotte Andrews
- 13 Tim Arnold
Trey Roselle
- 15 Jordan Dorsey
- 16 Gregory Zankowsky
- 19 Beverly Lehman
- 21 Janette Dally
- 23 Nancy Y. Palmer
- 26 Art Werner
- 29 Irene Turner

FINANCE REPORT

Session met in September and reviewed the July treasurer's report. After 58 percent of the year, the report showed financial contributions (pledged and non-pledged) at 63 percent of the budgeted amount.

Our per capita giving is \$1,474 as of July, which is 39 percent of the budgeted expectation of \$3,800. The amount Hanover pays to New Castle Presbytery is over \$5,800, so any amount paid by each member of Hanover helps to cover that expense.

Per capita is a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (USA). Every Presbyterian shares in the benefit of the PC(USA)'s system of government, so every Presbyterian is asked to share the expenses associated with coordinating and performing the functions of that system. Per capita this year is \$31.67 per member. It is expected that the per capita amount required in 2018 will be \$29 per member.

Information was provided to all committee chairs, from the monthly detail through August, so the committees could review their expenditures and think about budget requests for 2018.—*Ellen Casson, treasurer*



A cake decorated with a photo of Hanover members was the dessert.

Deacons' Luncheon Welcomes 50-year Members

The Annual Deacons' Luncheon in September was enjoyed by all who attended. Rave reviews abounded. The Gathering Place was set up beautifully. The food was great and the fellowship was enjoyed by all. This year, two Hanover members who reached their 50-year milestone were recognized: Kay Thompson and Barbara Coleman. Congratulations! Membership of 50 years is pretty special and we have many current Hanover members who have been members longer than 50 years.

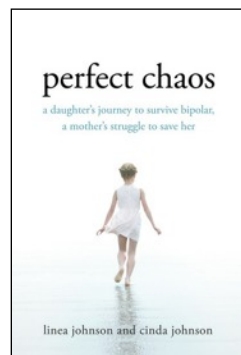
Member	Year Joined
Elva Tabor.....	1943
Ruth Howell.....	1944
Lois Kinckiner.....	1945

Nancy B. Palmer.....	1945
Thelma Meginniss.....	1945
Peg Green.....	1949
Nancy Y. Palmer.....	1949
Denny Schreyer.....	1952
Eleanor Warren.....	1952
Jean Gross.....	1953
Hilda Johnson.....	1953
Heather Fleming.....	1954
Julie Davis.....	1955
Kay Twing.....	1958
Peg Showalter.....	1958
Ralph and Sue Ann Fortney.....	1958
Norma Reid.....	1959
B.J. Kennedy.....	1959
Becky Arnold.....	1963
Art Werner.....	1963
JoAnn Rosa.....	1965

'A Man Called Ove' Is October Book and Movie

Hanover's Book & Movie group will be meeting in October and December. Our October event features both a movie and a book (by Fredrik Backman): *A Man Called Ove*. Ove is an older man whose normal response to events generally is somewhat "cross." His world changes when a young family from another country moves in next door to him. The story has elements of comedy as well as redemption and compassion. The movie will be shown at 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 21, and we will discuss both the book and the movie the next day after the Sunday fellowship time. Here is a link to additional information: www.goodreads.com/book/show/18774964-a-man-called-ove

Then after worship and fellowship on Sunday, Dec. 3, we will be discussing the book *Perfect Chaos: A Daughter's Journey to Survive Bipolar, a Mother's Struggle to Save Her*. This memoir was written by a mother and her daughter, who had bipolar disorder. The book tells the story of their struggles, and the faith and courage that helped them as they faced difficult times.



www.goodreads.com/book/show

/13167090

Thanksgiving Baskets

Once again, the Food Pantry will be distributing turkeys and food for Thanksgiving dinners to our neighbors who need them. Thanks to our hot dog cart sales this summer, we will be able to get most of the turkeys. If you would like to donate items for our "bags," please bring them to church and leave them either in the office or the Gathering Place.

Items needed are:

- Stuffing
- Canned vegetables
- Sweet potatoes
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Applesauce
- Pies or other desserts

Our Food Pantry volunteers thank you for your support!

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

World Communion Sunday, 11 a.m., Oct. 1

Session, 7 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 3

Staff Meeting, noon, Wednesday, Oct. 4

Worship Committee, 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 4

Female Harmony Society Tea, 3 p.m., Saturday, Oct. 7

Invitational Team, 5:30 p.m., Monday, Oct. 9

From Surviving to Thriving, 7 p.m., Monday, Oct. 9

Brandywine Village Civic Association, 7 p.m., Monday, Oct. 9

Washington Heights Blueprint Community, 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 10

Washington Heights Neighborhood

Association, 7 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 10

Faith in Action, 5 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 12

Food Pantry Collection in Worship, 11 a.m., Sunday, Oct. 15

Deacons, 5:45 p.m., Monday, Oct. 16

UD Pasta Dinner, 5 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 18

Staff Meeting, noon, Wednesday, Oct. 18

From Surviving to Thriving, 7 p.m., Monday, Oct. 23

Theology on Tap, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Oct. 26

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

Car Keys! Eyeglasses! Earrings! Shoes! Hats!

Are you missing any of these items? These, and more, have been building up in the Hanover Lost and Found box, and the pile is overflowing. If you think you may have mislaid any belongings while at Hanover, stop by in the office to check out the contents of the box. Items not claimed will be discarded or donated to the Super Sale.

Flower reminder

If you would like to donate flowers or give a donation to the Flower Benevolence Fund (goes to Hanover's fundraising efforts) please call Becky Arnold at 584-0356. You can put a dedication or memorial in the bulletin whenever you choose; a donation is not necessary.