

# THE HANOVER HERALD

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



*The Hanover group at the Blue Rocks game on Aug. 19 had several unusual visitors: It was Star Wars night, and throughout the evening Chewbacca, armor-clad troopers, and even Rocky Bluewinkle dropped in on the Hanover box to say hello (and pose for pictures).*

## Hanover Property Committee(s) Forming

I know that you all love a good committee meeting as much as I do—yeah, right . . . If you don't like meetings, and if you especially don't like long-term commitments that involve lots of meetings, consider joining the property committee on a very temporary basis.

We will initially meet with anyone that is interested, so that we can find out who would like to help out with a number of short-term projects. Our buildings are old and in need of repair, but I won't list everything that has to be done. We don't all have to deal with everything.

If you are interested in working to improve the Gathering Place Kitchen, do that. If you are one of those rare individuals that like air conditioning (I know its a long shot) help us explore our options. Help paint the trim around the repaired stained glass windows, if you like to

paint. Consider helping with sidewalk repairs if you have a sense of adventure. I could go on, but you get the point.

I think it would be best if we approach our property improvement efforts the same way that you would eat an elephant—one bite at a time. If you are hungry for some constructive work, come talk to me some Sunday.—*Thanks, Bill Balascio*

## Flower Fund Begins

As of Sunday, Sept. 3, we will begin accepting donations to our Flower Benevolence Fund. Anyone wanting to donate to this fund in lieu of giving flower donations, please call the church office (658-5114) or Becky Arnold (584-0356.) If you would still like to donate flowers on a given Sunday, please call the office or Becky as well.

## Discipleship Classes Open a New Season

Discipleship classes begin on Sept. 10! Adult Discipleship, under the leadership of George Turner, will continue to study the scripture passages for each Sunday morning.

Children from preschool to 6th grade will continue using WHIRL from Sparkhouse. The animated video and thoughtful lessons bring scripture passages to everyday life situations that our children may face at home, church or at school. Our Junior High class will continue on their journey through the Bible with CoLABorate from Sparkhouse. This fall they will dive into the New Testament. They will discuss the Gospels, why two testaments, how can Jesus be fully human and fully divine, Paul and his letters, and Revelation. "Every lesson unpacks one part of the New Testament—a book, a genre, a story—giving students the tools they need to read the Bible as the full story of God and God's people." (Sparkhouse)

Teaching our children this fall are Nancy Long, preschool to 2nd grade; Jeff Long, 3rd grade to 6th grade, and Pastor Andy and Nona Holy will collaborate with our junior highs.

Some are comfortable in the role of teacher. Others are not. How can those of us whose gifts lie in other areas give back to our Discipleship program at Hanover? Please consider participating in the adult class, or volunteering to help out as a substitute teacher or assistant in the youth classes. Or perhaps you have a talent you would like to share—storytelling, crafts, energizers, etc. If you would like to work with our children, please speak with Pastor Andy or Doris Loper or contact Nancy Long at 764-8095. Visitors are always welcome to our classes. Bring your grandchildren, nieces, nephews, neighbors and friends.

# FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

## Peace, Prayer, and Practice

*Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

—Philippians 4:6-7

The realization of peace takes place at the intersection of prayer and practice. True peace is the confluence of the faith, values, and convictions we carry in our hearts and spirits with our actions. The former is the unseen foundation upon which the latter becomes visible for all the world to see.

Being a peacemaker takes practice, and begins with prayer. In the act of praying we offer the desires of our hearts to God, and open ourselves to receive God's response. When we pray we construct the unseen foundation that provides the strength and courage that emboldens our actions. In God's plan our prayers fuel and focus our actions, and our actions deliver the answers to our prayers.

During the month of September we will take part in both a period of prayer and a period of practice. We will engage in a period of intentional prayer in which we rejuvenate our hearts and spirits for the work of peace. And then we will have a period of active engagement in the practice of peacemaking.

A local interfaith group of religious leaders have called upon houses of worship to take part in *Ten Days of Prayer to Strengthen a Community of Peace*. Along with many congregations throughout the area, Hanover has committed to participate. From Sept. 8–17, we will intentionally pray for peace as individuals, and in community.

Here are some suggestions to consider. Choose a time of day to spend a few quiet moments offering God your vision for what a peaceful community and world would look like. Over each meal, take an additional moment to give thanks for the things we have that

make for peace, and for the faith and wisdom to use them well. Each night when you lay down to rest, recall the moments of that day in which you experienced the peace of Christ, and pray they would continue to inspire you.

At church during those ten days, in addition to the regular prayers we offer before each gathering, we will take an extra few moments to quietly reflect on our desires for a peaceful world. And at the beginning of worship each Sunday this month we will light a special candle—our peace candle—and share a moment of quiet reflection. May the light of that candle remind us of our common resolve to practice—and realize—peace.

This 10-day period was chosen not just because we so desperately desire peace in this moment. It is also serving as a prelude to the second annual *Peace Week Delaware*. From Sept. 17–24 the Movement for a Culture of Peace is coordinating more than 50 events throughout the state, all of them designed to bring people together in the common pursuit of peace. We will be posting and announcing information about these events, you can also call the church office for a schedule. By the grace of God, participation in these events will lead us to be better practitioners, and peacemakers.

Then, on Sunday, Sept. 24, Hanover, in partnership with the 9th Ward Interfaith Coalition, will host our third *Interfaith Conversations* as the closing event of Peace Week. We have invited 10 religious leaders from different faith traditions to lead conversations about peacemaking in their tradition. The event begins at 3 p.m. with a time of communal centering, and has a time of food and fellowship in the middle. Each participant can attend two conversations, with a choice of five different traditions each time.

From Houston, to Charlottesville, to North Korea, to the halls of Congress, we are a people who so desperately seek peace. In the coming days, may our prayers be wrapped with thanksgiving and humility, and may God bless our actions: that they would deliver the very peace for which we pray.

—Peace, *Andy*

# FINANCE REPORT

In July, the finance committee received the report of our 2016 financial review. Many thanks to Judy and Art Werner for volunteering to provide this oversight. Judy worked her way through all the records and found the records reflect proper accounting procedures were followed, with appropriate fiscal oversight.

Session met in August and reviewed the May and June treasurer's reports. The June report shows contributions (pledged and non-pledged) are 56 percent of the budgeted amount. This is above the target for 50 percent of the year. Six-month giving statements were sent out. If you have any questions about your statement, or did not receive one, but think you should have, please contact one of the financial secretaries. They are Russ Buckley, Amy Harris, Romain Alexander and Jill McCracken.

The balance sheet for June reflects the movement of the Harbor Fund money into the Fidelity investments. Our regular income exceeds our expenses by over \$6,000, so we remain in the black through the first six months of the year. Thank you to all our devoted contributors.—*Ellen Casson*

## September Birthdays

- 6 Sharron Gregory
- 8 Lindsey Harris  
Alice Winchester
- 10 Mark Arnold  
Monisha Smith
- 17 Heather Fleming  
Peg Green
- 20 Joshua Gregory
- 22 Cherise Alexander  
Kourtney Bibbs  
Julie Davis  
Doris Loper  
Ava Zistl
- 23 Ruth McFarland
- 25 Hillary Mohaupt  
Kim Williams



# MUSIC MATTERS

Summer is wrapping up, and we thank everyone who shared their talents during our summer services. We appreciate your time, dedication, and offerings.

In September we head into a full season of music. The Hanover Choir resumes rehearsals on Wednesday, Sept. 6, 7 to 8:30 p.m., and their first Sunday back in the choir loft is Sept. 10. Have you thought about singing? We'd love to have you join us. Please talk to me or any choir member about it.

**Jeremiah's Coffee House:** We are hosting another evening of good food and entertainment: Saturday, Sept. 9, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Church School Hall. If you have anything you'd like to do—sing, play an instrument, read a poem, perform—join us! It's open to everyone! We're really looking forward to it.

*Soli deo Gloria* (To God alone the glory),  
—Twyla



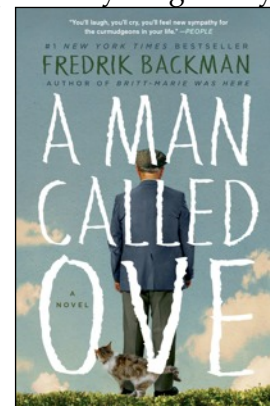
Hanover administrator Matthia McCracken reads from a children's book during a Vacation Bible School session last month. Those attending reminisced about our favorite books and read new "classics" as they explored biblical lessons.

## Book and Movie Group Announces Fall Topics

Two events have been planned for the Hanover Book and Movie group this fall:

*A Man Called Ove* is the story of a "grumpy" old man whose world gets turned upside down when he develops a relationship with a young family who move in next door to him. There are elements of comedy along with undertones of redemption and compassion. Fredrik Backman's novel was made into a movie by the same name. We will view the movie at 3:30 on Saturday, Oct. 21, and discuss the book and the movie the next day after the Sunday fellowship time. [www.goodreads.com/book/show/18774964-a-man-called-ove](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/18774964-a-man-called-ove)

*Perfect Chaos: A Daughter's Journey to Survive Bipolar, a Mother's Struggle to Save Her* is dual memoir written by a mother and her daughter. The daughter had bipolar disorder and the book tells the story of the struggles, courage and faith that got them through difficult and dark times. We will discuss the book on Sunday, Dec. 3 after fellowship. [www.goodreads.com/book/show/13167090-perfect-chaos](http://www.goodreads.com/book/show/13167090-perfect-chaos)



## Project LAUNCH Cafe Helps Build Families

Delaware Project LAUNCH has hosted monthly Community Cafés at Hanover since March. These monthly dinner and discussion events are based on the World Café Model to provide family strengthening opportunities that promote the protective factors framework: resilience, knowledge of parenting and child development, concrete supports, social connections, and the social emotional competence of children. We extend a special thank you to Hanover for its tremendous support for these events including a welcoming meeting space, promotion, child care and delicious home-cooked meals provided by the Female Harmony Society. The success we have seen would not have been possible without this partnership.

As an example, the May Café was framed around the strengthening families' protective factor of *Social Connectedness: No Person is an Island*. There was much discussion around the topic of social connections and the idea that everyone, especially parents, need friends and people they can count on. Participants shared their best strategies on how to form supportive and sustaining connections. June's session focused on accessing resources and creating linkages: *Concrete Supports: Where to find What You Need in Times of Need*. Participants discussed how they

learn about resources, where to access and which resources they find most beneficial.

At each events, participant discussion focuses on a series of pre-planned key questions that plant the "seeds" around the identified topics. These discussions have generated many key themes and hopes for the community. Action items such as the coordination of family wellness fairs, parent training opportunities, the promotion of family activity nights in partnership with Parents as Teachers, and the creation of a monthly community highlights calendar have all grown out of the "harvest" from the café discussions. promote direct services within the local community. We look forward to continuing the series of cafés and expanding topics of discussion beyond the protective factors framework to include topics of interest identified by the community such as co-parenting and more. Families are welcome to join us on the following Tuesdays from 6 to 8 p.m.:

Sept. 26, *Nurturing and Attachment*; Oct. 24, *Successful Co-Parenting* and Nov. 28, *Social Capital*.

For more information about the Delaware Project LAUNCH and the Community Cafés, please contact Mindy Webb at [mindy.webb@state.de.us](mailto:mindy.webb@state.de.us) or 302-668-5468.

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## CALENDAR

- Jeremiah Coffee House, 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 9
- Worship returns to regular schedule, 11 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 10
- Invitational Team, 5:30 p.m., Monday, Sept. 11
- From Surviving to Thriving, 7 p.m., Monday, Sept. 11
- Brandywine Village Civic Association, 7 p.m., Monday, Sept. 11
- Washington Heights Blueprint Community, 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 12
- Washington Heights Neighborhood Association, 7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 12
- Faith in Action, 5 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 14
- Food Pantry Collection in Worship, 11 a.m., Sunday, Sept. 17
- Deacons' Luncheon, 12 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 17
- Deacons, 5:45 p.m., Monday, Sept. 18
- Theology on Tap, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 19
- Staff Meeting, noon, Wednesday, Sept. 20
- UD Pasta Dinner, 5 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 20
- Interfaith Discussions, 3 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 24
- From Surviving to Thriving, 7 p.m., Monday, Sept. 25

*The calendar on [hanoverchurch.org](http://hanoverchurch.org) is a good resource for staying up to date on Hanover happenings.*

The Female Harmony Society invites you to

# Fall Tea with Julia Child

catered by the Home Life Management Program  
of the YWCA

## Saturday, October 7 3-5pm

featuring Linda Kenyon as Julia Child

Tickets \$10  
 Hanover Presbyterian Church  
 1801 North Jefferson Street  
[www.femaleharmonysociety.org](http://www.femaleharmonysociety.org)