

# THE HANOVER HERALD

A newsletter for the people  
of Hanover Presbyterian Church,  
Wilmington, Delaware  
February 2018

## Giving for Today: A Stewardship Update

God continues to call Hanover Presbyterian Church to celebrate the gift of hospitality, the blessings of diversity, and the call to work for justice.

Your support in 2017 helped us further our efforts. In 2017 we once again “lived within our means” or simply put our income covered our expenditures. Overall budgeted income was \$263,500 with actual income of \$280,186. While Hanover budgets to pay the total per capita amount for all members, we’ve continued to ask members to contribute their individual amount if possible, allowing such amount to be directed to additional ministry and mission. The contributions totaled \$2,108 versus the annual cost of \$5,855.

The current budget reflects an anticipated income of \$277,828. This is comprised of anticipated pledged and non-pledged income totaling \$191,000, loose offering income of \$13,000, per capita income of \$3,800, and other income of \$12,500 from fundraising, memorials, and investments, and \$57,528 from rental and miscellaneous.

Pledges to date total \$132,167. This reflects 16 pledges unchanged from 2017, 10 pledges increased, 5 pledges reduced, and 6 new pledges for 2018. The budgeted per capita allocation is \$3,800. To date Hanover has received \$478 towards the

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## Super Sale! May 5!

As always, we will need all kinds of help on the Saturday of the sale and the days before. Don’t be shy. Please contact Becky Arnold, Ellen Casson, or Ruth Howell and let us know you would like to help. This is a great opportunity to share that special Hanover hospitality with all kinds of wonderful folks. Join us!

## Lenten Soup Suppers Focus on Community

Gather together for Lenten Soup Suppers on Wednesday evenings, Feb. 21 through March 21, from 5:30 to 7 p.m. We will build on the spiritual calling and challenge in the hymn *Today We All are Called to be Disciples* to “make love and peace our fast.” In the midst of our fasting, we will feast on God’s Word and be encouraged through community.

One of the resources for this series is George Donigian’s book *A World Worth Saving: Lenten Spiritual Practices for Action*. Donigian challenges readers to connect their spiritual life with actions of compassion.

This Lent, let’s give up apathy! The Lenten suppers begin at 5:30, but please come when you are able—there is always plenty of hot soup and warm fellowship. If you have questions or would like a copy of *A World Worth Saving*, contact Nancy Long at [j2nlong@comcast.net](mailto:j2nlong@comcast.net) or 764-8095.



# BLACK HISTORY MONTH at Hanover

### The Freedom Forum Saturday, Feb. 3, 9 a.m. to noon

We will welcome Kathryn Jakabcin, the president of the board of directors of the ACLU of Delaware, and Kathleen Macrae, the executive director. They will address the First Amendment and the ongoing challenges of interpreting the meaning of “freedom of speech.”

The conversation will be moderated by William L. Chapman Jr., who is the chief talent and diversity officer and senior counsel at Potter Anderson & Corroon LLP, and a former Family Court judge.

### Mardi Gras Jazz and Soul Food Sunday, Feb. 11

Our 11 a.m. Mardi Gras worship service recognizing the Transfiguration of the Lord will feature the music of the Dixie Ramblers! Immediately following the service is our annual culinary extravaganza: **The Soul Food Luncheon.**

### Gospel Vespers Sunday, Feb. 25, 4 p.m.

The incomparable Gospel Vespers with The Twin Poets, Dr. Amanda Kemp and Michael Jamanis, Gus Mercante, Michael Hunter, Brian Gray, The Melodic Dancers, The Rev. Aaron Moore, Denika M. Knox, and, of course, the Hanover Choir.

# Choosing Our Fasts for Lent

*Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?*

*Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide yourself from your own kin?*

*Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard.*

*Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am. — Isaiah 58:6-9*

To fast is to abstain. As a spiritual discipline, fasting is the practice of abstaining from things that serve as distractions, impediments, and barriers in our relationships with God and one another. Fasting is often practiced for a defined period, with the goal of receiving new levels of understanding, relationship and, ultimately, freedom at its conclusion. For Christians, Lent is the traditional season for fasting.

This Lent in worship, study, and service we will focus on the fasts we choose. With the prophecy of Isaiah serving as our guide, we will focus on fasting from the things that distract us from receiving—and offering—the freedom that God desires for us, and all of God's children. Here is a preview:

**Ash Wednesday, Feb. 14:** Fasting as a Path to Freedom

Isaiah 58:1-12: we begin our Lenten journey: let the ashes be our guide as we choose our fast (6 p.m. service in the Church School Hall)

**1st Lent, Feb. 18:** Fasting from Food

Luke 4:1-12: Jesus in the wilderness; fasting, famished, and afraid

**2nd Lent, Feb. 25:** Fasting from Self  
Mark 8:31-38: taking up the cross and denying oneself

**3rd Lent, March 4:** Fasting from Wisdom

I Corinthians 1:18-25: choosing the foolishness of Christ over the wisdom of the world

**4th Lent, March 11:** Fasting from the Flesh

Ephesians 2:1-10: the bonds of the flesh broken by the grace and love of God

**5th Lent, March 18:** Fasting from Life

John 12:20-33: Jesus prepares the disciples for his death

**Palm/Passion Sunday, March 25:**

Fasting from Temporal Time

Psalms 118:1-2, 19-29: the steadfast love of God endures forever, and yet . . . here comes Friday

**Maundy Thursday, March 29:** Fasting from Fear

John 13:1-17, 31b-35: we are cleansed and fed in preparation for the new commandment, and the freedom it brings (7 p.m. service in the Church School Hall)

**Resurrection Sunday, April 1 (no fooling!):** Fasting from Death

Isaiah 58:1-12 and John 20:1-18: the fast Jesus chooses breaks the yoke of death—and sets us free!

May God bless our journey through Lent; that through the things we give up we are drawn closer to God and one another.

Peace, *Andy*

## Stewardship Update

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annual allocation. The Stewardship Committee thanks you for making a commitment through pledging which helps add a level of certainty to our mission and ministry.

There is no limit on when you can pledge during 2018, or adjust your pledge as your circumstances dictate. If you have any questions about pledging, your pledge, or per capita please contact one of the Hanover financial secretaries.

February is Black History Month, and that brings an abundance of spirituals, gospels, and traditional African melodies. Look for some great choral pieces, wonderful solos, and some four-handed piano preludes and postludes all month long!

The Dixie Ramblers will join us in worship on Sunday, Feb. 11, the last Sunday before Lent begins. Their New Orleans jazz gives an authentic flare to our Mardi Gras Service. "*Laissez les bons temps rouler.*" (Let the good times roll!)

Our Gospel Vespers service on Feb. 25 is filled with great musicians, poets, and singers—check out the flyer on Black History Month for a full guest roster and plan on joining us for an inspiring afternoon.

Looking into March, our next Jeremiah's Coffee House is on Saturday, March 3, 5:30-7:30 p.m. It's a fun, relaxing evening of good food and good entertainment: music, poetry, whatever you have to offer. Please speak to either George Turner or me about being in the line-up for the evening.

As always, we lift our praise . . . *Soli deo gloria* (To God alone be the glory), *Twyla*

## FINANCE REPORT

At the January 2018 Session meeting, the treasurer's report through the end of November 2017 (92 percent of the year) was reviewed and approved. Our combined pledged and unpledged regular income totaled \$173,505, which is 99 percent of the budget goal for the year, which continues to be good news for the year-end outlook. Hanover's investments continue to grow, with a gain of \$12,485, as of the end of November. The Finance Committee is meeting in February and will be reviewing the full year-end numbers at that time, and will also look at the 2018 budget, so any recommended changes can be submitted to the Session at its February meeting. — *Ellen Casson*

# CALENDAR

- Finance meeting**, 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 1  
**Freedom Forum**, 9 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 3  
**Session meeting**, 7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 6  
**Worship meeting**, 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 7  
**Faith In Action**, 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 8  
**Soul Food Luncheon**, noon, Sunday, Feb. 11  
**Invitational meeting**, 5:30 p.m., Monday, Feb. 12  
**Deacons' meeting**, 5:45 p.m., Monday, Feb. 12  
**From Striving to Thriving**, 7 p.m., Monday, Feb. 12  
**Ash Wednesday Service**, 6 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 14  
**Pasta Dinner**, 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 21  
**Theology on Tap**, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 22  
**Gospel Vespers**, 4 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 25

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

## February Birthdays

- 1 Lee Buckley  
Sean Simpson
- 3 Nancy Long  
Jurgens Van Rooyen
- 4 Hope Alexander  
Twyla Evitts
- 6 Nathaniel Arnold  
Andrew Moore
- 7 Tracey Lewis
- 8 Doris Murphy
- 9 Andrew Long
- 15 Gabrielle Murphy
- 16 Jean Gross  
Sean Howard
- 17 Maggie Alexander  
Jacob Arnold  
Lynn Edwards
- 21 Tom Davis  
Michael Kirylik
- 22 Nancy B. Palmer
- 24 Melvin Matthews, Jr.  
Irene Turner
- 25 Stuart Bailey
- 26 Chris Simmons  
Larry Smith  
Brian Zankowsky
- 27 Kay Twing

## Thinking on Christianity . . . Beyond Religion

If you have struggled with how the Bible is read and interpreted, or wondered what the practice of Christianity would look without the structures of religion, or simply enjoy delving into and discussing the meaning of some Bible passages, consider joining a new Monday night book and discussion group.

Starting this coming Monday, Feb. 5, at 7:30 p.m., the group will discuss the book *Reading the Bible AGAIN for the First Time: Taking the Bible Seriously but Not Literally*, by Marcus J. Borg. Discussions of one or two chapters will take place every Monday from 7:30 to 8:30. The group will be meeting at Hanover. If you have questions about the group or would like to have a copy of the book, contact Pastor Andy Jacob.

The conversations are being led by John Holden, a retired United Methodist minister, who has a passion for reaching out to believers in search of alternatives to traditional interpretations of religious experience.

## Book Group Announces Its Spring Selections

After church on March 11, we will discuss *Pushout: The Criminalization of Black Girls in Schools* by Monique Morris. It is about the experience of black girls in schools. For example, 15-year-old Diamond stopped going to school the day she was expelled for lashing out at peers who constantly harassed and teased her for something everyone on the staff had missed: she was being traf-

ficked for sex. After months on the run, she was arrested and sent to a detention center for violating a court order to attend school.

Our book on June 24 will be *The One in a Million Boy*, by Monica Wood. It is a richly layered story of a relationship between a very elderly woman and the 11-year-old Boy Scout who was assigned to help her around the house.

## Libby Heiks Receives Enslin Scholarship

The Female Harmony Society is pleased to share with you that Elizabeth (Libby) Heiks is the recipient of the Marybelle Enslin Memorial Scholarship. Libby (daughter of Cheryl and Jack Heiks) is a current member of the Female Harmony Society. She graduated from the University of Delaware in 2017, with a bachelor's degree in early childhood education.

She will be attending graduate school and pursuing a master's degree in education. Libby is looking forward to a career in education, stating, "I am aware that I have been lucky to have such a positive experience in school throughout my life, and mainly attribute that to my teachers. The joy I get from working with children leaves me fulfilled every day."

This is the third Enslin Memorial Scholarship the Female Harmony Society has granted. Previous awardees were Cimone Philpotts, a graduate of Spelman College, who is pursuing a doctoral program in

urban affairs and public policy at the University of Delaware, and Brittany Peterson, a graduate of the University of Delaware, who completed her Master's degree in public health and was chosen as a Unite for Sight Global Impact Fellow, serving an internship in Ghana for her master's degree.

We are very grateful to the Enslin family for enabling the Female Harmony Society to keep Marybelle's passion for education alive.

## Tuesday? It's Soup Day.

Super Tuesday is off to a good start! Each Tuesday from 11-1 we are serving soup and sandwiches in the Gathering Place. So far, we are pleased to say, several neighborhood residents as well as Hanover members have joined us each week in January.

It's a great way to support the Food Pantry and get a quick, hot lunch if you are in the area. Hope to see you there!

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## HANOVER NEWS & NOTES

### Send a Caring Package

The Female Harmony Society is asking for donations to send along with heartfelt greetings to our young people who are attending college, graduate school, are serving in the armed services, or are just in need of a little remembrance from

their Hanover family.

February is a wonderful time to send our young men and women notes of encouragement, valentines, homemade goodies, target gift cards, or some little fun item! A box will be placed in the church office to receive your donations of whatever your heart desires to give. Please

place your donations in the church office by Feb. 11. Let's show them that their church family is praying for their success in all their endeavors.

### How to Share the Word With the Hanover Family

We all are grateful for Hanover's many ministries and activities that benefit both Hanover and the wider community and we understand that communication about these events is key to their success. There are three main ways to share information about events at Hanover.

- Run an announcement in the bulletin. Items must be submitted to our church administrator, Twyla Evitts, by Wednesday.
- Make an announcement during worship. Keep it brief—just two or three sentences, asking people to check out the details in the bulletin or to speak with you after church. Brevity makes it easier for people to remember the key details about your event.
- Write an article for *The Herald*. Generally, articles are due to Bill Tudor by the 23rd of each month. If you have questions about writing an article for *The Herald*, speak with Bill, Ellen Casson, or Twyla. You may email articles to [wgtudor@comcast.net](mailto:wgtudor@comcast.net), or to the church office.

When in doubt, contact our church administrator, Twyla (who also manages our Facebook page). Give her a call, stop in to see her, or email her at [churchadmin@hanoverchurch.org](mailto:churchadmin@hanoverchurch.org).

### Pasta Dinners a Draw

Third Wednesday Pasta Dinners have started up again. We had a pretty good turnout in January. On Feb. 21, we will be joined by the Parents as Teachers group. Please feel free to join us for spaghetti and fellowship! It would be a good opportunity to meet some of the families in our neighborhood and to learn more about this wonderful program. Dinner starts at 5 p.m.

### 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.