

# THE HANOVER HERALD

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

## Per Capita 2018: Hold On to Your Hat!

For the first time in who knows how many years the Per Capita assessment for each congregational member has been reduced – and not by just a small amount either! Yes, really! For 2018, the assessment for each member is \$29, down from \$31.65 last year.

As part of a connectional church, we are so much larger than ourselves. In our presbytery, New Castle Presbytery, we are one of 50 congregations and connected ministries. The per capita helps pay for staff who provide another level of expertise, support and coordination. This includes a significant effort in mission coordination and funding based on agreed criteria. This is facilitated by funds from the Speer Foundation and West Legacy Trust amongst other sources. We need only reflect on the years Hanover has benefited from this fruitful relationship. If you are able, the Stewardship Committee hopes that you can make this one-time payment to Hanover apart from your other giving. This can be made at any time during the year.

## Welcome, Twyla, Our New Administraytor

When good, devout, experienced Presbyterians get together seeking to make a decision, much less get something done, it all begins with a motion. Yes, we still use (loosely in some cases) the parliamentary procedures, called Rules of Order, created by Henry Robert—in 1876! To date, no motion to dismantle it has achieved the required number of votes to pass; as such, I will proceed decently and in order . . .

I would like to make a motion: I move that we change the spelling of the word administrator. I further move that we insert the letter “y” so that from this day forth we refer to the one who administers the operations of the church as the Church Administraytor. Do I hear a second?

Good . . . now we can have the requisite time for discussion and debate. Here is my rationale . . .

To administer something is to ensure that it is functioning properly, smoothly, and efficiently. It is to ensure that the resources necessary to achieve the mission of the organization are in place, so that everyone involved has what they need to fulfill their role. It is to be the “eyes and ears” of the body; watching and listening for ways to sustain and enhance the service of the group, and

troubleshoot areas that need improvement. And perhaps most importantly, it is to be the “face” of the organization: to represent the core values of the body in word and deed to the world.

I move adding the “y” so that “ministry” would be at the heart of the word, task and title. As serving in the church is an act of ministry, why not call it what it is? What is ministry if it is not to care for the people of God, providing for the needs and wants of the body of Christ so that it would most faithfully fulfill its call? What is ministry if it is not attending to the details of the service, organizing and communicating well, and believing that there is no such thing as a little thing? And what is ministry if it is not to be a living presence of God’s Spirit; one that offers direction, comfort, and compassion for members of a congregation – and the world?

As we prepare to enter another year of ministry and mission together, we joyfully welcome Twyla Evitts as our new Church Administraytor. She brings extensive experience ministering to congregations as an administrator, not to mention

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## How Two Churches and a Synagogue Welcomed a Refugee Family



Afghan refugee family relocated to Wilmington celebrates its first American Thanksgiving at the home of Karolin and Mark Lipman.

*This article is excerpted from a blog post on the website of HIAS, a national organization aiding refugees.*

When two churches and a synagogue join forces to welcome a refugee family, good things happen.

Originally, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Hanover Presbyterian Church, and Congregation Beth Shalom each intended to support newly arrived refugee families on their own. But, when the pace of arrivals slowed under the Trump Administration, Jewish Family Services of Delaware—HIAS’ local resettlement partner in the area—asked the three congregations if they would be willing to team up.

“Initially, we thought we would prefer to go

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## Report on 2017 UnGifts Results

A total of \$2,320 was donated to Faith in Action's Christmas UnGifts project this year. UnGifts offers gift options in which the "giftees" are honored by a donation in their honor to a project that makes a difference in the world. This year's UnGifts project results were:

- Presbyterian Disaster Relief, which provides help to communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic events, and witnesses to the healing love of Christ, received \$440.
- Windows for Hope, a project of Delaware Interfaith Power & Light which winterizes older homes in Wilmington's West Center City while providing work and skill training for community members, received \$255.
- Read-In Read Out, a project of the Delaware Center for Justice, gives parents who are incarcerated the resources to stay connected with their young children by providing books for the children and recordings of the parents reading the book to their child, received \$485
- Hanover's Food Pantry, which works to prevent hunger in our own community, received \$575
- Hanover's twice-weekly Zumba program, which has forged friendships across cultural and age boundaries, helped people with weight loss and with arthritis and other conditions, received \$565.

More than half of the 25 people who gave donated to more than one project. The amounts of the gifts ranged from \$10 for a project to \$100. The average total donation of those who purchased UnGifts was more than \$90; the average gift per project was \$45.

## Welcome, Twyla, Our New Administraytor

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the "hard skills" of office management. More importantly, she understands and embodies the essential Hanover spirit so well: in all that she does seeking to offer hospitality, honoring and rejoicing in diversity, and responding to Christ's call to work for justice. Most importantly, Twyla is assuming this role as a call, the one through which she offers her ministry for all of God's children.

Concretely, Twyla will be serving 32 hours each week, with the church office as home base (Monday and Wednesday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday, noon-8 p.m). We will continue to rejoice in the ministry and service of our office volunteers so that we will have full office coverage throughout the week, with the exception of Friday when the office will be closed. Twyla's service will begin on Wednesday, Jan. 10.

Finally, I offer this motion from the deepest of theological (and Presbyterian!) convictions: ministry is not the exclusive realm of those ordained to office. Quite the opposite. In our church home, we are all

called to ministry. Each word and every act we offer that flows from our faith in God, and builds up the body of Christ, is ministry.

Are you ready to vote? Great! All those in favor, please say "Amen"!

May God bless all that we offer in the service of the church, that it would be faithful and true ministry.

Peace, *Andy*

## January Birthdays

- 1 Greg Harris
- 7 Christina Poirier  
David Simpson
- 8 Stephanie Cornell  
Bernice Van Rooyen
- 14 Kylie Frazer
- 15 Aysha Gregory
- 16 Josh Showalter
- 18 Marjorie Pulliam  
Linda Zankowsky
- 21 Alice Cornelius
- 23 Rochelle Ransom
- 25 Chase Williams
- 26 Sebastian Gross
- 27 Chris Garrett  
Jeff Long
- 31 Patrick Evans

## MUSIC MATTERS

*"The glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken it."*

—Isaiah 40:5

God's highway brought us to the humble manger on Christmas Eve for a truly glorious service. We thank our guest musicians, Paige Cutrona and Gus Mercante, for being with us and singing such lovely Christmas music! A special thank you to our dedicated Hanover Choir for their hard work and inspiring music that they so joyously bring. "The glory of the Lord has been revealed!"

For the month of December we had lots of four-handed piano music—a big thank you to Jane Putscher for sharing her piano talents with us!

This new year starts off with a 9th Ward January celebration in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King on Friday, Jan. 12, at Congregation Beth Emeth. Our choir will be singing, as will other groups from the 9th Ward. Please join us as we celebrate his life and mission through music, readings, and prayer.

Looking ahead, our Gospel Vespers is Sunday, Feb. 25, at 4 p.m. It will be full of music and special guests—put it on your calendar now!

*Soli deo gloria* (To God alone be the glory), *Twyla*

## FINANCE REPORT

At the December 2017 Session meeting, the treasurer's report through the end of October 2017 (83 percent of the year) was reviewed and approved. Our combined pledged and unpledged regular income totaled \$156,731, which is 89 percent of the budget goal for the year, and is good news for the year-end outlook. There was a gain in Hanover's investments of \$7,121, which is more good news.

The bottom line continues to be positive with income exceeding expenses by \$8,826. The Session members also approved the budget for 2018, while acknowledging that revisions will be made, following the hiring of a new church administrator. — *Ellen Casson*

## Welcoming Refugees the Interfaith Way

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about it on our own," explains Mary Vane, a lead volunteer at Westminster, "but it has worked out extremely well and provided unintended benefits."

"It's been a very good collaborative effort."

Each congregation brings different communal resources and expertise to the table: Westminster runs a home furnishing program helping individuals and families transition out of homelessness; Hanover operates a clothing closet and food pantry; and Beth Shalom's congregants offer a wide variety of specialized services and capacity for material support.

Working together to apply these resources on short notice, the interfaith coalition partnered with JFS Delaware to assist in the resettlement of the Rahmadi\* family.

Unable to live safely in Afghanistan because of the father's work as an interpreter for the U.S. military, the family of four applied for resettlement and arrived in Wilmington in March 2017. It was bitter cold and snowing in Delaware the night representatives from JFS and the three congregations headed to the airport to pick up the family.

"I remember I ran over to the house to turn on the heat," says Jill McCracken, a volunteer from Hanover. As she was pulling up, she noticed a utility truck and learned that the water had been turned off because a nearby pipe had burst and was flooding the neighbor's house.

After contemplating the prospect of bringing the family to a hotel for their first night, she and the others decided to move forward as planned.

"They'd been unsettled enough," McCracken recalls. "We thought, 'let's just bring them here and make do for one night.'"

Water was flowing the next day, and in the eight months since, the Rahmadis have rarely looked back.

In addition to securing and furnishing housing for the family with their two young daughters (Westminster underwrote the lease and

\* Names have been changed to protect the privacy of the clients.

volunteers from Beth Shalom collected furniture, decorated, and stocked the pantries) the interfaith group has helped Rahim\* land a full-time job with benefits as a messenger and office services assistant at a local law practice, enrolled his two daughters in Jewish Community Center summer camp and then in JCC-affiliated day school—all on scholarship—and are assisting Hamdiyah\*, the mother, receive accreditation in the United States for her undergraduate degree in order to pursue employment opportunities. All this while working with the family to get settled into the daily life of a country they are still getting to know.

"Everything happened so fast," Rahim Rahmadi wrote in a Westminster congregational newsletter earlier this fall. "I understand now in America you can be anything you want to be."

Mary Vane, who is currently assembling adult drivers ed materials for refugees in the community, says that she loves watching the sense of discovery and accomplishment on the faces of the people she helps when they have new experiences.

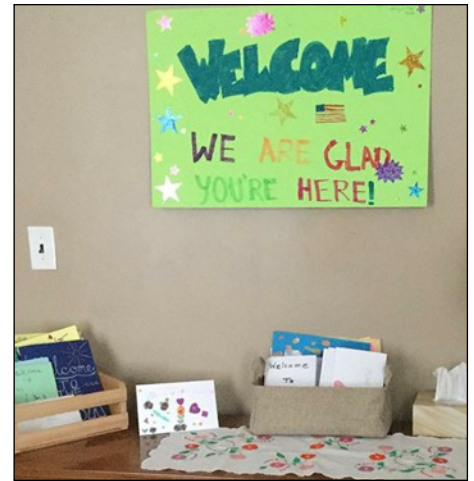
"Seeing their joy when Rahim got his first American job, it was an equally exciting moment for the volunteers."

Faith Silver, a recently retired chemist and volunteer from Beth Shalom, asserts that this model of direct sponsorship is effective because it allows the community to invest in the family's success.

"It's not just, 'do we have a spare couch to offer?' We really want to push them toward sustainability," she says. "So continually being there to teach them how to use public transit, how to get to appointments on their own, how to shop in the supermarket leads to independence much faster."

Part of that responsibility also includes exposing the Rahmadi family to new American and religious traditions. The Rahmadis have attended Shabbat dinners, Passover seders, Easter gatherings, and enjoyed their first Thanksgiving.

Karolin and Mark Lipman, members of Congregation Beth Shalom,



*Posters and welcome cards awaited the family in their new home.*

hosted the Rahmadi family in their home for Thanksgiving.

"I am forever grateful that my family had the opportunity to come to this country and live free lives and live the American dream," Karolin Lipman tells HIAS.org. "We have so much to be thankful for, especially our new friends."

More than 60 years ago, Karolin's parents and sisters were Jewish refugees who came from Hungary with help from HIAS. Her 94-year-old mother joined the Rahmadis and other guests in bringing dishes to the meal from their home countries. In total, foods from six countries were represented at the table.

Read the full article: [www.hias.org/blog/interfaith-groups-welcome-afghan-refugee-family-delaware](http://www.hias.org/blog/interfaith-groups-welcome-afghan-refugee-family-delaware)

## Update on '18 Pledging

You will recall from the budget presentation to the congregation that our income budget totals \$220,300. 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.

Pledges to date total \$132,167. This reflects 37 pledges—16 unchanged from 2017, 10 increased, 5 reduced, and 6 new pledges.

The Stewardship Committee thanks you for making a commitment through pledging which adds a level of certainty to the mission and ministry of Hanover.

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## HANOVER NEWS & NOTES

### Pasta Dinners Again

Our next Third Wednesday dinner will be on Jan. 17 at 5:30. We will meet in the Gathering Place for fellowship and pasta. This is a great opportunity to meet people who come to the Food Pantry and Clothes Closet as friends who live in the neighborhood. Looking forward to seeing you there!

### 2017 Annual Report

Hanover's Committee Chairpersons, staff, and those who lead events and activities central to the life of the church are asked to submit their 2017 reports to the Clerk of Session Eloise Downing by Jan. 31. Contact Eloise (clerk@hanoverchurch.org) if you have any questions regarding report preparations.

### LAUNCH Dinners

Female Harmony will continue to provide dinner for the LAUNCH

## CALENDAR

**New Year's Day**, office closed, Monday, Jan. 1

**Session meeting**, 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 2

**Worship Committee**, 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 3

**From Surviving to Thriving**, 7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 8

**Brandywine Village Civic Association**, 7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 8

**Washington Heights Neighborhood Association**, 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 9

program in the Education Wing. on the 4th Tuesday of each month. Also, in January Nona Holy will take over the leadership of the group. Anyone interested in joining FHS, please talk with Nona or Maggie Alexander to find out more about the organization.

### Thanks to All

The Worship Committee thanks everyone who planned, set up for, and participated in Hanover's Advent and Christmas events and services.

### Sidewalk Cafe Returns

The Hanover Sidewalk Café returns on Tuesday, Jan. 9. We will be ladling up hot soup and sandwiches from 11-1 each Tuesday as long as the days are too cold for the hot dog cart. Stop by to get warmed up with both food and fellowship! We will have take out or tables to sit at in the Gathering Place.

**Deacons' meeting**, 5:45 p.m., Monday, Jan. 15

**Staff Meeting**, noon, Wednesday, Jan. 17

**Women's Bible Study**, noon, Thursday, Jan. 18

**2nd District Planning Council**, 7 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 23

**Theology on Tap**, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 25

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

### Congregational Meeting

The pastor's compensation package for 2018 was approved by the congregation at the annual Congregational Meeting held on Dec. 3. A 3-percent increase in income for the pastor was approved. The pastor will also continue to receive a Retirement Savings Plan match of up to 4 percent of salary. The pastor's salary for 2018 is \$59,084. The total compensation package includes a housing allowance, pension, and medical coverage with additional dental and death benefits, and automobile and continuing education reimbursement. Including the retirement savings plan match, the total compensation package is \$97,386. The pastor also receives five weeks of vacation, two weeks of study leave, and three additional out-of-pulpit Sundays.

The budget for 2018 was reviewed. The salary compensation for the Church Administrator was included in the budget, even though the position remained vacant, to provide flexibility in planning for this position to be filled. The same 3 percent increase in salary approved for the pastor was recommended for all personnel in the 2018 budget.

The Nominating Committee presented its slate of officers: for Session, Class of 2020, Jeff Long, Cheryl Heiks, and Karin Wilson; for the Board of Deacons, Class of 2020, David Harris, Terre Gilchrist, and Russ Buckley; and, for the Nominating Committee, Class of 2019, Ray Kirkpatrick. There were no nominations from the floor; the slate was unanimously approved.—Ellen Casson