

THE HANOVER HERALD

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

Coming: Profiles In Stewardship

*We have gifts that differ according
to the grace given to us . . .*

—Romans 12:6

*Stewardship: the careful and re-
sponsible management of something
entrusted to one's care*

—Merriam-Webster

It is by the grace of God that we are blessed with gifts; each and all of us receive them in combinations and configurations that make us literally unique. God gives us our gifts so that they would be a blessing for the world; the expectation being that our gifts are used well. Stewardship is nothing more—or less—than the word we church folks use to talk about how we faithfully, carefully, responsibly, intentionally, and effectively use our gifts in our journey with God.

The role of our Stewardship Committee is to relentlessly challenge us to recognize and then use our God-given gifts most faithfully in and through the church. Yes, it is about money. But it is so much more. It is about the time that we commit to worship, serve, learn, and pray. It is about the creativity and energy we offer toward the ministries of the church. It is about the spirit of God that we share with the world through our witness and service. And it is about taking care of ourselves; being good stewards of our own minds, bodies, and spirits.

Last year the Stewardship Committee created a remarkably helpful resource: *Stewardship in Life and Death*. It provides guidance about how to be good stewards of our earthly relationships and resources

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The young women of the Melodic Movements Dance Troupe were among the guest artists at this year's Gospel Vespers program. Among the other guests and in-house artists were countertenor Gus Mercante, the Twin Poets, pianist Michael Hunter, Brian Gray, and, of course, the Hanover Choir.

Super! Planning! Promises! Super! Sale!

Planning is underway for the 2018 Super Sale, Saturday, May 5, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. There will be something for everyone on the day of the sale. Don't miss it. Come out and enjoy the fun and invite all your friends and neighbors.

We need all hands on deck! There are many ways to help. You can help the day of the sale and/or you can help before the sale. If you can't come out to help, consider baking something for the bake table. "Meals to Go" were a big hit last year, especially for volunteers too tired to cook something when they got home.

We will have our usual exceptional assortment of "stuff." In addition to Baked Goods and Meals to Go, we have Nearly New/Never Used and Collectibles; Jewelry and Clothing; Books and CDs; Frames and Pictures; Kitchen and Dining; Toys; Linens; Furniture and Household goods; and, the always necessary Miscellaneous and Seasonal categories. Please save your donations of "stuff" and you can start bringing them to the church on the Wednesday before the sale—May 2.

If you have any questions about volunteering or getting your wonderful stuff to the church, please talk to Becky Arnold, Ruth Howell, or Ellen Casson. Our Super Sale is a community event with fun and fellowship, great food, and great "stuff" to buy!

**Jeremiah's Coffee House—
Saturday, March 3, 5:30 p.m.**



FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

'You Are in Our Thoughts and Prayers'

There is no better indicator that something terrible has happened than when the nightly news becomes a litany of prominent individuals, speaking on behalf of the people, making this declaration.

Given the justifiable rage that has been raised in the aftermath of the Ash Wednesday massacre in Parkland, Fla., there has been a strong backlash against those who stand before us and declare to grieving people: *You are in our thoughts and prayers.*

I confess to being in backlash crowd.

I am not in the crowd because I necessarily doubt the authenticity of those who use this phrase in times of crisis: who am I to judge someone's faith or intentions? And I am certainly not in this crowd because I doubt the power of prayer to connect and console in our most difficult moments.

I am in the backlash crowd because, as powerful as they are, thoughts and prayers are not enough.

From cover to cover, our scriptures are filled with prophets who spoke the thoughts of God; dynamic

Invitational Team Sets Facebook Forum

On Sunday, March 18, right after worship, the Invitational Team will host another one of its forums designed to lead us in being more comfortable inviting others into the Hanover journey.

What do you know about Facebook? Are you addicted, or have no idea what it is? Do you know how to "post"? "Boost" your post? What does it really mean to "friend" someone? Do you know how to increase your "reach"? Regardless of your answers to these questions, this forum is for you!

We will gather over provided sandwiches and sides and watch on a big screen as we learn together how to use the social media phenomenon Facebook to tell the wider world about Hanover's events and

leaders chosen by God, who also prayed with the people. But then they acted. They transformed their compassionate thoughts and prayers into prophetic action with the goal of bringing creation one step closer to the beloved community that God created and intended for all of God's children.

Saying to someone "you are in our thoughts and prayers" makes no commitment beyond thinking and praying. What if we took the next step: prayerfully asking for the courage and conviction to act . . .

"You are in our thoughts and prayers; now may God grant us the wisdom and resolve to end the violence that robs young people of their future."

"You are in our thoughts and prayers; now may we find the courage to pursue the common good, even when it demands personal sacrifice."

"You are in our thoughts and prayers; now, dear God, lead me to use the power I have been granted to deliver safety and security to all of your children."

May God bless the thoughts and prayers that we offer to those who suffer and struggle. Then, may God bless the actions we pursue; that they would lead to the fulfillment of our thoughts and prayers.

Peace, *Andy*

activities; most especially about what it means to be a part of this community. It will be a time to laugh and learn together how to use the gift of technology to share and spread the good news of God's love for all of God's children.

All you need bring is your fully-charged cell phone or device with internet connectivity (but it is not required), and your appetite for food, fellowship, and fun as we face-off together!

Directory Updated

The 2018 church directory is available on the back tables in the sanctuary and in the table beneath our bulletin board in the church school hall. Please let the office know if you have any corrections.

MUSIC MATTERS

A big thank-you for our musicians and artists that makes Gospel Vespers one of the favorite services of the year! Brian Gray, Denika C. Knox, Michael Hunter, Melodic Movement Dance Troupe, The Rev. Aaron Moore, Walter Scott, Gus Mercante, The Twin Poets, and our wonderful Hanover Choir. It was a glorious day of celebration!

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

The Finance Committee met on Thursday, Feb. 1. We reviewed the 2017 year-end figures and are encouraged by the fact that we underestimated the support of our members and friends, as they defied expectations in their financial support of Hanover programs and ministries. We ended the year once again in the black (income exceeding expenses by \$21,861), partly due to personnel vacancies, but also due to the income from pledged and non-pledged giving. Our giving totaled \$188,159 or 107 percent of budget. Hanover's investment income also contributed to the positive year-end numbers. Our investments have been strong, but as we have often experienced, the stock market is not a secure source of funds, so the committee recommends we not plan the budget around investment income.

Regarding the budget, the Finance Committee made some adjustments to the budget in light of the hiring of Twyla Evitts as the church administrator. Before we submit the revised budget for approval by the Session, we are exploring information about health benefits. Once we have various questions answered, a revised 2018 budget will be presented to Session for approval. — *Ellen Casson*



Hanover's three confirmands—Jacob Arnold, Christopher Jacob, and Judy van Rooyen—were introduced to the congregation during worship on Feb. 4 as they began their confirmation journey. The process includes weekly classes, road trips to other worshipping communities, writing personal

statements of faith, service projects, a retreat, meeting with the Session, and leads to membership in the church, which is scheduled for Sunday, June 3. Following the introduction, each of them knelt to receive the laying on of hands and a special confirmation prayer and blessing.

Hanover an Important Part of Blueprint Community

Last February the Washington Heights Blueprint Community Team presented its neighborhood revitalization plan at a symposium held in the Chase Center on the Riverfront. Dr. Steven Pequet, director of the University of Delaware Center for Community Research and Service, and David Buches, community investment manager for FHLBank of Pittsburgh, certified that the team completed all of the requirements for the Blueprint Communities training program.

The Washington Heights Blueprint Community is a multi-year community revitalization initiative serving the Triangle, Washington Heights, and Brandywine Village neighborhood association boundaries. Its mission is to “enhance the

economic, social, cultural, and physical condition” of the Blueprint Community.

Since the presentation in 2017, the Blueprint Community Team has been hard at work, meeting monthly at Hanover, and developing strategies to move its plan forward. One of our accomplishments has been a leadership training class held at Hanover, in partnership with Interfaith Community Housing of Delaware. Participants have come from all over the blueprint community and a graduation ceremony will be held at Hanover.

Another project the team is working on includes renovations for the Hanover gym that will make the gym more accessible to children, youth and adults from the commu-

nity. Jefferson Street Center, Inc. and Hanover Church figure prominently as “anchor” institutions for the community revitalization initiative. Look forward to more news about how this relationship may develop and benefit the Blueprint Community.

Soup? A Dog? Both?

Super Tuesday or Hanover Sidewalk Café? Depending if March comes in like a lion or lamb, we hope to fire up the hot dog cart this month. When the weather does not cooperate, soup will still be on every Tuesday. Hope to see you in the Gathering Place for soup, or on the street for a dog!

Profiles in Stewardship

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so that at the time of death they will be carefully and responsibly managed.

This year the committee will be offering another invaluable resource: ourselves and our stories. In the coming months you will find in these pages pieces under the title "Profiles in Stewardship." Each piece will offer the story of a particular Hanover Saint whose management of their gifts serves as an example of faithful stewardship. The purpose is not to elevate anyone; it is to present particular stories that lead us to recall and rejoice in our own story. The goal is to expand our understanding of stewardship, deepen our awareness of our gifts, and inspire our commitment and creativity for how we can deploy them most faithfully.

May God bless our stories about our gifts; that in sharing them we would be God's most faithful stewards. And God bless the members of the Stewardship Committee who are offering their gifts to listen, record, and write!

Peace, Andy

It's Time for a New Pictorial Directory

The Deacons and Church Life Committee would like to put together a pictorial directory for Hanover members. This is a great way for new and even "seasoned" members to get acquainted with faces and names of people they might not know. Before we go crazy trying to get pictures taken of everyone, we thought we would ask if you have a recent picture of yourselves or your family to please send it to the church office. This could save a lot of time and frustration with trying to get people scheduled for a photo shoot. If you have any questions, please see Becky Arnold or Bea Wilson.

If you are able, please send your pictures to Twyla Evitts (churchadmin@hanoverchurch.org) or bring them to church and leave in the office for her attention. If you don't have a picture, we can arrange to take one of you on a Sunday after worship.



Mardi Gras Sunday at Hanover found the Dixie Ramblers setting up in the Gathering Place—and in the dark. A power outage forced a move from the sanctuary to the floor below where the light was better, and where the tables were already in place for the soul food luncheon. The power was restored just before 11 a.m., so we didn't have to worship in the dark—and were already in place for the meal to follow.

Update on Pledging and Per Capita

Our congregational budget shows an expected income of \$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 \$143,643. This reflects 20 pledges unchanged from 2017, 10 pledges increased, 4 pledges reduced, and 8 new pledges for 2018.

The per capita for each congregation's member is \$29. Our 2018 assessment totals \$3,800. 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 as we typically pay this assessment proportioned across the year.

The Stewardship Committee thanks each of you for supporting the ministry and mission of our congregation.

Pasta Suppers Draw Neighbors and Hanoverites

Third Wednesday Pasta Supper was a big success in February. We had about 50 guests join us for spaghetti, ice cream sandwiches and good conversations! In addition to our usual neighbors who attend, we were joined by the Parents as Teachers group who use the gym periodically for family fun nights and the Lenten Bible Study folks who came for soup, but found spaghetti! We also had our U.D. friends who always stop by to lend a hand. This month, those who attend the Lenten Study are again invited to join us for supper at 5:30 on Wednesday, March 21. Please come and share Hanover's hospitality with our neighborhood friends!

CALENDAR

- From Surviving to Thriving**, 7 p.m., Thursdays, March 1 and 15
- Jeremiah's Coffee House**, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Saturday, March 3
- Deacon's meeting**, 5:45 p.m., Monday, March 5
- Borg Book study**, 7:30 p.m., Mondays, March 5, 12, 19 and 26
- Session meeting**, 7 p.m., Tuesday, March 6
- Invitational Committee**, 5:30 p.m., Monday, March 12
- Faith In Action**, 4:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 13
- Women's Bible Study**, 12:30 p.m., Thursday, March 15
- Invitational Forum on Facebook**, 12:15 p.m., Sunday, March 18
- Pasta Dinner**, 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 21
- Theology on Tap**, Thursday, March 22
- Maundy Thursday service**, 7 p.m., Thursday, March 29
- Good Friday service**, 7 p.m., Friday, March 30

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

March Birthdays

- 2 Justin Lewis
- 5 Taralynn Dillard
Melissa Heieie
- 8 Frann Anderson
Martha McFarland
Sirena Turner
- 9 Sue Baker
- 11 Christopher Jacob
Susie Watson
- 12 Ray Kirkpatrick
- 13 Thelma Meginnis
- 16 Porshay Matthews
Sharay Matthews
- 24 Ruthann Headley
- 26 Joan Ross
- 27 John Russell
- 28 Ellen Casson
Andrea McCoy-Carty
- 30 Anna West

Check Out the Board

The bulletin board in the Church School Hall is now the home for our calendars, the monthly worship leader schedule, and coffee hour sign up. The side wall displays musical and community offerings.

DEACON'S CORNER

This year, each Deacon is going to take a turn at highlighting a member of their Care Group. This month, Becky Arnold talked with Natalie Jobses.

I am originally from Dallas, Texas. I moved to Washington, D.C., for work in 1990 and moved to Wilmington with a friend during a relationship crisis. The move to Wilmington probably saved my life. Since moving to Wilmington my journey has taken quite a turn from a background in internet marketing to working directly with people. This all started when my friend gave me a yoga book and suggested I take up yoga. From there I began a strong yoga practice, became a certified yoga therapist, and facilitated many classes throughout the city and county. In the end I knew that was not enough, so I went back to school and have completed my bachelor's degree in healthcare administration and am a few credits shy of an associates in nursing. I play sudoku and knit to de-stress after work and classes.

Speaking of work, I work at Amazon, Inc., in Middletown, in the clinic and have intentions of using both of my degrees to help Amazon and other large corporations use their position to help empower their employees toward better health choices—and to force organizations to offer better options to their employees to impact their lives, and the lives of their families. This hectic schedule doesn't leave much for downtime, but I love spending time with family and friends around the dinner table telling stories and playing a mean game of spades.

Andrea McCarty took me to Hanover because she knew I needed a church family. From the moment I walked in the doors of Hanover I was accepted, and encouraged to use my talents to help others. Hanover members took me under their wings and never let me forget they were there if I should need anything. When I talk about Hanover to other people, I always tell them that our church is a place where you can go to feel welcomed for who you are, where you are, without question or judgment. I also tell them how you have sent a church bulletin every single week since my classes and work schedule have kept me out of church and what that means to me. I can't wait to see you all on Sundays again!



How the Food Pantry Stretches Your Dollars

I just want you all to know how much your donations of food on the third Sunday are appreciated by the Food Pantry. By the third week of the month, our supplies are running low and your donations help to fill up some empty spaces. And if you can't get out to shop, but want to contribute, monetary donations are also welcome. When we purchase by cases at the store or at Produce Junction, your dollars actually go farther. For example :

50 pounds of potatoes: \$13.50

1 case collards (24 bunches): \$15
Case bananas (50 pounds): \$17.50
7 pineapples: \$11.50

That's just a few of the fresh items we get. Usually, our bill per week for produce is \$250-300. Thanks to your donations of food along with those of other churches, we are able to use whatever cash we get to pay for fresh vegetables and fruits. The amount of food we purchase usually is enough to serve about 40 families each week. Thanks again for your support!—Becky Arnold

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Easter Flowers to Decorate the Sanctuary

If you wish to honor loved ones by donating Easter flowers for the sanctuary, please:

1. Fill out this order form. Donations may be made either in memory of someone who has died or in honor of someone who is living.
2. Enclose a check, payable to Hanover Presbyterian Church (\$10 per plant)
3. Mail form and check to:
Sue Baker
110 Southwick Drive
Wilmington, DE 19810

In order to be sensitive to those who are affected by allergies, the choices are spring flowers that do not produce pollen.

Please select the flowers that you would like to order:

- Tulips Daffodils

After Easter Worship:

- I will pick up a plant.
 I will not pick up a plant.
Please give plant to a shut-in.

Donor's Name (please print)

In memory of (please print)

OR

In honor of (please print)

*Orders Must Be Received
by Sunday, March 18*

