

Hanover Presbyterian Church Annual Report 2017



Dear Hanover Saints,

When looking into the rear-view mirror at 2017 there is one word that reflects back: transition.

In the last year, we experienced all of the regular transitions that punctuate a congregation’s journey: the passing of dear Saints, and the welcoming of new ones; the ebb and flow of ministries and programs; and the annual passage through the different liturgical seasons. Let us pause to acknowledge the presence and rejoice in the guidance of God in and through each of these changes.

In addition to these regular transitions, we also went through large transitions in staff. In July, we welcomed Herman Pulliam as our new sexton and, to say the least, he hit the ground running! His buoyant spirit coupled with his great skills and gifts have been a blessing not just to the Hanover Saints, but to the larger community. At the very end of the year, we watched as our ever-talented and devoted minister of music, Twyla Evitts, added another hat and answered

the call to serve as our church administrator. Praise God, as our new crew members now complement the always-faithful volunteers who keep the good ship Hanover sailing full steam ahead!

While these transitions were happening visibly on the surface, beneath them the foundation for ongoing transformations was being laid. In the following pages you will read about the countless partnerships and programs that we have created and maintain. It is an astonishing network of relationships; the strength of which promises many more years of transition ahead.

In reality, life is nothing more—or less—than a series of transitions, for, by definition, a journey is marked by forward progress. Friends, we follow a Savior who never stops moving, and we worship a God who never stops creating. Let us rejoice in all of our many transitions—large and small—and receive them as the blessings that propel us to the next ones . . .

Peace, Andy

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Black History Month Celebration

Sunday, Feb. 4, our 25th year of celebrating Black History Month at Hanover, began with a 3-hour workshop led by Dr. Amanda Kemp, based on a book that she authored, titled: *Say the Wrong Thing*, a method of dealing with racism and justice by developing "Strategies of the H.E.A.R.T.". The workshop was well-attended and very uplifting.

Sunday, Feb. 5, we began a book discussion based on the book *Say the Wrong Thing* led by Julius Jackson and Rourke Moore, both members of Community Presbyterian Church. We continued the book discussion for the next two Sundays. The discussions were held during the time of Adult Discipleship.

After worship, we enjoyed the Soul Food Luncheon, chaired by Cherise Alexander. The theme of the Luncheon was "Food for The Soul," a variety of traditional and special foods. The luncheon has been a Hanover tradition for 25 years.

Sunday, Feb. 12, during Sunday worship, our guest preacher was William Chapman, a retired Family Court judge of more than 20 years.

Sunday, Feb. 19, our guest preacher was Rev. J. B. Redding, Ministerial Staff, Bethel AME Church.

February 19, at 4 p.m, we held Gospel Vespers Service, a celebration featuring a variety of musicians, poets and the Hanover Choir. Other performers included: The Twin Poets of Delaware; the Melodic Movements Dance Troupe; soloists Taralynn Dillard, Brian Gray and Akeira Cramer; Dr. Amanda Kemp and Michael Jamanis; the Hanover Drum Circle. The concert concluded as we lifted our voices with a powerful rendition of *Lift Every Voice and Sing*.

Blueprint Community Team

In March of 2016, the Washington Heights Blueprint Community was officially awarded this designation, by the FHLBank of Pittsburgh and the University of Delaware Center for Community Research & Service (CCRS). This is a new multi-year community revitalization initiative serving the Triangle, Washington Heights, and Brandywine Village neighborhood association boundaries.

Hanover Church, the Hanover Dream Team (a Delaware Readiness Team) and the board for Jefferson Street Center, Inc. were instrumental in forming a team of community residents and organizational partners and submitted the proposal to the University of Delaware and FHLBank Pittsburgh. The partnership of the bank and CCRS is dedicated to providing leadership and training so organizations and individuals can "enhance the economic, social, cultural, and physical conditions of Delaware communities."

On Feb. 6, the Washington Heights Blueprint Community Team presented its Neighborhood Revitalization Plan at a symposium held in the Chase Center on the Riverfront. Dr. Steven Peuquet, 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 blueprint team is meeting monthly in the Hanover education wing. Jefferson Street Center, Inc. and Hanover Presbyterian Church figure prominently as "anchor" institutions for this community revitalization initiative. To see more information or to access the revitalization plan, you can visit their Facebook page at www.facebook.com/washheightsblueprint

Building Use

Hanover continues to be a church open to the community nearly every day of the week, along with regular board and committee meetings, Bible study, choir practice and activities of the church members. Hanover is truly a "Gathering Place."

The gym is used regularly on Tuesday and Thursday evenings for Zumba classes. The gym is also used by the Sharon Temple Adventist Middle School on Friday mornings during the school year. A fantastic partnership continues between Hanover and Open Arms Academy early learning center. The Clothing Closet and Food Pantry are active every week. Other ongoing community uses include:

- Modern dance class
- Diamond State Bridge Club
- Yoga class
- K'nittee Group
- Washington Heights Neighborhood Association meetings
- Blueprint Community Team meetings
- Brandywine Village Civic Association meetings
- Tutoring through Literacy Delaware
- Project LAUNCH Community Cafés
- Shortlidge/Warner Achievement Zone family night activities
- Parents as Teachers family play nights
- Wednesday night community pasta dinners with the University of Delaware
- Wilmington Little League Board meetings
- From Surviving to Thriving gatherings
- Tuesday hot dog cart, soup and sandwich supporting the Food Pantry
- Jefferson Street Center, Inc.
- Female Harmony Society

—Ellen Casson

Church Life

Committee members: Beatrice Wilson, Becky Arnold, Ruth Howell. Ad hoc committee member: Katy Leep

The Church Life Committee sponsored three major events in 2017:

- The Church Picnic in June at Fox Point State Park
- An evening at the Blue Rocks Baseball Game in August
- The Christmas Luncheon in December

The Church Life Committee coordinated with Jeremiah's Coffee House in June, September, and December to provide food for the events.

The Church Life Committee also provided a light snack after Christmas Eve Service in December. — *Beatrice Wilson*

Clerk of Session

Elders

Class of 2017	Class of 2018	Class of 2019
Sebastian Gross	Romain Alexander	Bill Balascio
Doris Loper	Eloise Downing	Amy Harris
Susan Woodbury	Karen Palermo	Beatrice Wilson

Session Meetings: 2017

Stated meetings: 11

Special meetings: 2 (meet new members) May 21 and Nov. 12

Retreat meeting with Board of Deacons, Jan. 28

Annual Congregational Meeting, Dec. 3

Statistical Report 2017

Membership Jan. 1, 2017.....177

Gains:

Profession of Faith.....2

Re-affirmation of Faith.....1

Certificate of Transfer1

Other.....2

Losses:

Deaths.....2

Other1

Membership Dec. 31, 2017.....180

— *Eloise Downing, Clerk*

Clothing Closet

The Clothing Closet continues as a mission of Hanover, in partnership with Adopt-A-Family. It is open to anyone on Wednesdays, from 9 a.m. to noon with the exception of July and August. All clothing and personal items are free. If there is a special need, the services of the clothing closet are available at other times throughout the year. For example, in 2017, we helped three refugee families referred to us by Jewish

Family Services. There were approximately 1,104 families served by the clothing closet in 2017, and of those, 179 families were new customers. All customers represent approximately 2,104 family members serviced by the Clothing Closet in 2017. Volunteers come from within Hanover's congregation, but many are from outside of Hanover, through a valuable partnership with Adopt-A-Family. It takes approximately 130 hours each month to collect, sort, and remove clothing that cannot be used. Volunteers also clean, arrange and restock clothing, and assist on shopping days. The volunteers for the Clothing Closet work together to offer a positive environment for the community.

Deacons

Class of 2017	Class of 2018	Class of 2019
Tammy Beamer	Becky Arnold	Maggie Alexander
Alice Davis	Chris Garrett	Norris Cramer
Walter Scott	Jude Quinn	Susie Watson

Discipleship (Christian Education)

During a January 2018 Discipleship class with our youth, Jeff Long was heard to say that as Christians we attend classes, even as adults, because there is always something new to learn. We believe that as followers of Christ, we are never too young or too old to learn something new about being a child of God.

Discipleship at Hanover in 2017 continued to have five classes meeting on Sunday mornings. Adult Discipleship was led by George Turner and Beatrice Wilson and concentrated on the scripture readings for morning worship. Children's Discipleship continued using Augsburg Press' curriculum, Whirl. The engaging videos provided a jumping off point for age-appropriate discussions about living as Children of God. The Discipleship team teachers were Chris Garrett and Beth Undercuffler (Pre-Ks), Nancy Long (K-3rd Grade) and Jeff Long (4th-7th grade), and the Senior High Class met with Mike Kirylik and Rev. Nona Holy.

The term beginning September 2017 saw a slight shift in classes as the Pre-Ks "graduated" to Miss Nancy's class and Mr. Jeff's 6th and 7th graders branched off to create a pre-confirmation class led by Pastor Andy Jacob. The older youth studied the New Testament using the curriculum Collaborate by Sparkhouse/Augsburg Press. Rev. Nona Holy continues to meet with our post-high schoolers/college students. Thank you to our Discipleship substitutes Becky Arnold, Alice Davis, Chris Garrett, Jude Quinn, and Beth Undercuffler. Along with Sunday education classes, the Discipleship team planned and led the 2017 Lenten and Advent Soup Supper programs. Each Wednesday during Lent, we gathered for a light din-

ner of soup and discussion on Sunday's dramatization of a Biblical character's encounter with Jesus. The encouragement/goal was for each of us to reflect on our own encounters with Jesus, asking the question: What is my story? The children's classes also provided "Lent in a Bag" filled with symbols of the season to enrich/assist Lenten activities and meditations at home.

During our Advent suppers we studied how Christmas is chronicled in each of the four Gospels. The study, written by Cynthia M. Campbell, compares each of the Gospels to homes that Christians visit. During these Lenten and Advent programs, there was always plenty of hot soup and warm fellowship! The Discipleship team thanks everyone who came out for these suppers and especially those who helped by making soups and contributing breads and desserts.

On April 30, piggybacking on Faith in Action's Creation Care Sunday, the children's Discipleship classes put on the 5th Annual Bee Good to Creation Carnival and raised awareness about creation care and raised funds for Heifer Project International. The children raised \$223 for saplings through the Heifer Project. Heifer tree gifts include seedlings and saplings of trees appropriate to the region. Recipients are educated on nurturing young trees and the importance of reforestation. Trees provide firewood and fodder, yield nutritious fruits and nuts that improve health, and enrich the soil and purify the air. Thank you to all who came out to the carnival and gave so generously to the project.

Three Hanover youth returned to Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center for the 2017 Middle School Conference. Judy van Rooyen, Jacob Arnold, and Chris Jacob were accompanied by Nancy and Jeff Long for the Thursday-to-Sunday event, which was full of singing, energizers, and a consistent, urgent message that all are children of God. Skits by the energetic camp counselors, or "enablers," highlighted ways in which we exclude or ignore others, and the keynote speaker emphasized our need to be included and inclusive, while seeking to understand and follow the example of Jesus throughout our lives. The Discipleship Committee thanks the Female Harmony Society for its continued financial support of our attendance at this faith-formation event.

Vacation Bible School, *Lessons Learned*, was held in August at the home of Becky and Tim Arnold. We enjoyed reading new children's books and reminiscing about some of our favorite children's books as we explored biblical lessons through children's literature. The Discipleship Team thanks Becky and Tim for opening their home and their pool for our summer

study time together. Nancy Long led the children, and adult reader leaders were Matthia McCracken, Jeff Long, and Nona Holy.

Lastly, Discipleship continued to partner with Hanover's Faith in Action Committee in organizing and leading the Brown Bag Book Discussion series.

—Submitted by Jeff and Nancy Long

Faith in Action

Faith in Action's mission is to put faith into action. We did so in a variety of ways during 2017:

- Through our annual Christmas UnGifts project, we raised \$2,320 for five activities in our community and throughout the world: Interfaith Power and Light's Windows of Hope project, Presbyterian Disaster Relief, Read In/Read Out, and two activities within Hanover, the Zumba exercise class and the Hanover Food Pantry.

- In partnership with Discipleship, we co-sponsored and led the Hanover book discussion group. Three books were featured: *White Rage*, *A Man Called Ove* (we also saw this movie), and *Perfect Chaos*.

- We planned and led a Creation Care worship service on April 30 which focused on caring for and treasuring trees and other plants.

- Four special offerings were promoted to support projects sponsored by PCUSA. FIA members delivered Minutes for Mission leading up to the collection of donations to Christmas Joy, One Great Hour of Sharing, Pentecost, and Peacemaking.

- We carried out activities for Peaceweek (sponsored by Interfaith Neighborhood Ministries) in September, including an interfaith discussion on violence, featuring leaders from seven different faith traditions.

- Faith in Action continues to facilitate the church's relationship with the 9th Ward Interfaith Coalition, and its collective partnerships with Family Promise, Delaware Interfaith Power and Light, and the 9th Ward Interfaith Community Nurse ministry.

Female Harmony Society

In a chaotic, vibrant world, there can be harmony. A world where everything works in harmony is a world of peace. —Robert Mandayam

One of the functions of the Female Harmony Society is to provide assistance to groups in our community that are helping people in need. This year we received grant requests from organizations in Wilmington such as Delaware HIV Consortium, Generations Home Care, Trans, Elderly and Disabled, Lutheran Community Services, St. Helena's Parish Outreach, STEHM, the YWCA Home Life Manage-

ment Center Program for Homeless, and Hanover Youth. We were able to give each one a donation.

Also, this year, we were looking for other ways to get back to our “roots” of helping children. We partnered with Project LAUNCH, (Linking Actions for Unmet Needs in Children’s Health) whose office is housed in the Education Wing of Hanover. They have a dinner once a month for parents and the FHS offered to provide the meal and childcare.

We continued to give financial grants to Hanover youth graduating from high school and pursuing further education. We also helped send three middle school youth to Massanetta, Va., for a conference in June. Happily, we met all the goals of our Strategic Plan for 2014-2017. In October, we held our third Annual Tea. In accordance with our new terms of office, Cheryl Heiks was elected president-elect, Nona Holy will be our next president and Becky Arnold past president. Other officers are Ellen Casson, treasurer; Susan Woodbury, secretary; and Hillary Mohaupt, historian. —*Becky Arnold*

Finance

2017 Hanover Income and Expense Report

Income

Pledged and Non-pledged Income	\$188,159
Loose Offerings	14,609
Per Capita	2,108
Memorial Contributions	905
Interest and Dividends	8
Building Use and Rent	46,023
Fund-raising and Miscellaneous Income .	8,887
Investment Income	19,487
Total Regular Income	\$280,186

Expense

Pastor	\$ 94,320
Church Administrator	25,394
Sexton	10,275
Director of Music	25,394
Other personnel expense	15,926
Operating expenses	55,566
Repairs/maintenance	21,056
Program expenses	8,585
Benevolences	4,600
Total Expenses	\$261,116

Net Income \$ 19,070

Uncommitted Reserves \$214,301

When all the numbers were in for 2017, Hanover was in the black for the fourth year in a row! We ended the year in the black partly due to personnel changes,

but also due to the income from pledged and non-pledged giving.

We are encouraged by the support of our members and friends, as they defied expectations in their financial support of Hanover programs and ministries. We are also encouraged by the stability of Open Arms Academy. Maintaining the right balance in staff and child ratios is always a struggle, and our church members need to continue to spread the word about this excellent childcare center.

Thank you to all who believe in Hanover and offer your pledges and gifts. We have continued to receive donations from unexpected places, at unexpected times, and this is a reflection of support for what Hanover stands for, and recognition of the importance of Hanover in the community.—*Ellen Casson, treasurer*

Food Pantry

	2017	Change from 2016
Households	1,683	–102
Adults	2,586	–383
Children	1,486	+314
Total	4,072	–69
New Clients	251	+51
Donations	\$14,184	–\$4,339
Expenses	\$16,877	+\$2,050

The Gathering Place has been busy again this year as far as the Food Pantry is concerned. We have had many new clients. Several people have had family members move in with them which makes it harder to get to the end of the month without having to look to food pantries for help. The number of emergency calls we have had throughout the year from people who are without any food has gone up. We are so glad to be able to help these individuals when they call because that is really what we are here for.

This year along with the BTL Foundation, we were able to give out 106 turkey bags to help neighbors to have a Thanksgiving dinner. The Food Pantry’s funds for this project come directly from the proceeds of our Hanover Sidewalk Café (better known as the hot dog cart). Thanks to all who support us throughout the summer. Not only are we able to provide turkeys, we also give out laundry detergent to all of our clients in December. (This is not something we have on a regular basis, but is very welcomed when we do have it.)

Our partnership with the University of Delaware is still a strong one. We continue to hold Pasta Suppers on the third Wednesday of each month. In November, we hosted with University of Delaware, our second annual Thanksgiving “potluck,” which was a big success. We hope this year to have more neighborhood

residents come and join us so they can get to know what it is we do in the Gathering Place. We also invited the Parents As Teachers group to join us for one of our dinners. We will be doing more of that in 2018. During January, February and March, we hosted an “alternative” to the hot dog cart. We served up hot soup and bread on Souper Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. As usual, there was no fee, but donations were welcome. This winter it will be a “pay as you can” event.

Thanks again this year to Giant Stores for their most generous donations of meat, bread and canned goods. Also to our other supporters, Westminster Presbyterian, Concord Presbyterian, and Congregation Beth Shalom and a host of individuals who contribute food throughout the year. Thanks to Hanover members who support us by food donations on the third Sunday of each month. It is thanks to these donations that we are able to put more of our monetary contributions to use buying fresh fruits and vegetables which are so appreciated by our clients. A huge thank you goes to all of the volunteers who show up each week to help prepare breakfast, sort and bag produce, work in the pantry itself and do the jobs of pulling files, registering people, and serving them when their number is called. We are open 52 weeks of the year and most weeks, thanks to this group of dedicated people, you could say we run like the proverbial “well-oiled machine.” We look forward to 2018 and the challenges it may bring knowing that we have the support of our Hanover family as well as the community we serve. —
Becky Arnold

From Surviving to Thriving

On each second and fourth Monday evening throughout 2017, the From Surviving to Thriving Group gathered as participants walked together and shared in the issues that punctuate the journey of mental health and mental illness. The group’s name captures the notion of a journey from a place of seeking simply to survive from day-to-day, to a place of realization and fulfillment of one’s gifts, dreams, and hopes.

The gatherings are open and free-flowing, allowing space to talk about experiences, ideas, and emotions related to mental health and mental illness, and also serve as a place to share resources for information and support. And the conversations always incorporate Biblical reflections that seek to add spiritual insight and direction for the journey.

Gatherings are open to any and all, and the Sunday bulletin and the weekly Flash contain the meeting

times. For more information, you can contact either of the co-facilitators Beatrice Wilson or Andy Jacob.

Jefferson Street Center, Inc.

Jefferson Street Center, Inc. (JSC) continued a successful partnership agreement with Hanover. The agreement states that JSC will provide oversight and support for the community service programs using the Hanover Church property that are consistent with JSC’s mission. JSC agrees to help maintain the Hanover properties, and to seek funding to upgrade or maintain the properties used, or associated with those programs, including but not limited to the Food Pantry, the Clothing Closet and gym programs.

In 2016, JSC was instrumental in helping to form a team of community residents and organizational partners and submitted a proposal to the University of Delaware’s Center for Community Research and Service and the Federal Home Loan Bank of Pittsburgh, to designate the Triangle, Washington Heights and Brandywine Village neighborhoods surrounding Hanover, as a blueprint community. This is a new multi-year community revitalization initiative dedicated to enhancing the economic, social and physical conditions of the community. As part of this revitalization effort, one project will be the renovation of the Hanover gym, to include a sprinkler system and new wall mats so the gym can be used more by the community, particularly to serve more children, youth and their families. On Feb. 6, the Washington Heights Blueprint Community Team presented its neighborhood revitalization plan at a symposium held in the Chase Center on the Riverfront. Dr. Steven Peuquet, director of the University of Delaware Center for Community Research and Service, and David Buches, community investment manager for FHL Bank of Pittsburgh, certified that the team completed all of the requirements for the Blueprint Communities training program. Members of our Hanover family and the JSC Board were present to share the good news. Jefferson Street Center, Inc. and Hanover Church figure prominently as “anchor” institutions for the community revitalization initiative. The full plan is available at: drive.google.com/open?id=0ByKspa3o7UvHcTY1SktCMmlHZ0E

K’nittee

The Hanover K’nittee is a small group of people who knit, crochet, or do other handcrafts. We have been meeting on Monday evenings since April 2014. One of the primary goals of the group has been to make “prayer shawls” for people who are struggling with illness or other issues, which the pastor or a deacon can give to them as a concrete expression of

Hanover's support. Gifts have also been donated to express love for babies being baptized or to celebrate the completion of confirmation classes for our youth. New members are always welcome. For more information, contact Lorie Tudor, Sue Balascio, or Carolyn Klawitter.

Minister of Music

It was a full year of musical opportunities!

Winter: Beginning in January, we had The Choir School of Delaware join us for morning worship. We always enjoy supporting this wonderful organization of young talent. Black History Month was filled with spirituals and gospel music each Sunday in February. Our 25th Gospel Vespers service included the Hanover Drum Circle, the Hanover Choir, Brian Gray, Taralynn Dillard, Michael Jamanis, Dr. Amanda Kemp, CRAMER, and The Twin Poets—we also had a packed sanctuary for the event! Our annual Carnival/Mardi Gras service to mark the end of Epiphany and the coming of the Lenten season was a special celebration with The Dixie Ramblers.

Lent and Easter: We had Maundy Thursday communion, Good Friday Tenebrae, an Easter morning sunrise service in the Sugar Bowl with our drum circle and a quartet, and then in our morning worship with guest trumpeter Greg Harris, the Hanover choir, and the traditional singing of Handel's *Hallelujah!* chorus.

Summer: In June at our Fox Point Park picnic, we enjoyed worship "down by the riverside" with the Dixie Ramblers. During the summer we enjoyed the individual musical talents of choir and congregation.

Fall: In September we welcomed the Hanover choir back. Summer seems long without them—I think we all miss it. The Choir School of Delaware came back in the fall, and also asked us to host their Pro-Series Concerts, and this began in October. There will be a five concerts through 2018. In November, the choir participated in the Interfaith Thanksgiving service.

Advent and Christmas: During Advent we had four-handed piano music in the services. We exchanged our December Service of Solace for a Christmas Caroling afternoon at Forwood Manor—there were over 60 people between us, and we all enjoyed it. On Christmas Eve we had as our musical guests Paige Cutrona, soprano, and countertenor Gus Mercante (this was Gus' 20th Christmas Eve at Hanover). And on the last Sunday of the year, Eloise Downing led us in a carol-filled worship service.

Thank you for your steadfast support of all things musical at Hanover!

Soli Deo Gloria (To God alone be the glory)

—*Twyla Evitts, Minister of Music*

Ninth Ward Interfaith Coalition

We continue to be deeply involved with seven other houses of worship in our 9th Ward area as we seek to fulfill our mission: The 9th Ward Interfaith Coalition is an open and inclusive group of clergy and lay leaders who represent their houses of worship in the 9th Ward of Wilmington. Our purpose is to offer fellowship through collegial support and encouragement, and service through a unified voice and presence that address the needs and concerns of our community. Our goal is to offer light where there is darkness; hope where there is doubt; peace where there is pain. In 2017, the Coalition continued with its time-tested events that draw the community together.

The annual Thanksgiving and Dr. King celebrations drew large crowds, as did several spontaneous gatherings created in response to issues of crime and violence in the city. We continue to rejoice in our partnership with Family Promise, and housed homeless families for three weeks during the year.

We entered into a partnership with Delaware Interfaith Power and Light and its Windows of Hope program, which constructs easily installed storm windows into homes and buildings, which results in reduced energy consumption and cost. Perhaps most impressive, the Interfaith Community Nurse has been active throughout the year offering programs, information, guidance, and comfort to our houses of worship and the larger community.

Each year the ministry of the Coalition grows and expands; always with the goal of drawing people of faith together in the 9th Ward so that we lift up ourselves and our community.

Nominating Committee

The 2017 Nominating Committee consisting of Lorie Tudor, Doris Loper, Cherise Alexander, and Maggie Alexander met with Pastor Andy on Sept. 27. The committee reviewed the list of church members and listed members that could possibly serve as Deacon or Elder. Each member made calls until all positions were filled as follows:

Deacons: Russ Buckley, Terre Gilchrist, Dave Harris
Session: Cheryl Heiks, Jeff Long, Karin Wilson

—*Maggie Alexander, nominating committee member*

Open Arms Academy

In June 2013, Open Arms Academy received its license from the State of Delaware to open and provide care for children and families, in the education wing of the church. In July 2015, Open Arms achieved a Delaware Stars Level 4 rating. Delaware Stars for Early Success is Delaware's Quality Rating and Improve-

ment System (QRIS) administered by the Delaware Department of Education. The preschool and toddler rooms actually scored at level 5, which is the highest rating available, and the preschool room received the highest rating of any room that this Stars evaluation team has seen. Director, Kathy Hughes, gives all the credit to her staff and says, "I am so proud of them!"

"The mission of Open Arms Academy is to enrich children's daily experiences through various activities guided by trained, sensitive and caring teachers. The center's program is designed to give children the opportunity to explore to their satisfaction — art materials, music, dramatic play, educational materials and play equipment. We strive toward developing a positive self-image in each child and accept every child and family with OPEN ARMS."

Enrollment has grown, but always fluctuates and maintaining staff-to-child ratios is a challenge for the director. June 2018 will be the five-year anniversary and Hanover Church will be celebrating with them. The church is fortunate to have Open Arms sharing our space, and the community is fortunate to have such an outstanding program available to families.

Personnel

2017 was a very busy year for the personnel committee. The personnel committee had the daunting task of finding a replacement for our beloved sexton, Melvin Matthews. As if that wasn't enough, we also had to find a replacement for our do-everything church administrator, Matthia McCracken. Through the grace of God, we were fortunate to find two capable people to take on those roles and responsibilities. Herman Pulliam is our new sexton and Twyla Evitts is our new church administrator/minister of music. I am sure you will agree Hanover has not missed a beat with them functioning in their new positions. A big shout-out to the volunteer office staff for your continued support. As the personnel chair, I want to give a big thank you to Lynn Gregory and Alice Davis for their support and willingness to serve on the committee. —*Romain Alexander*

Prayer Circle

In 2017, the prayer circle continued to provide an ongoing witness not just to the power of prayer, but to the fundamental spiritual truth about the power of community to bind us all in the journey of faith and life. Each Monday morning the members of the prayer circle—which is open to all—gather and review the prayers that were offered in worship in spoken and written word the day before. After a Biblical reading and a shared prayer from an historical source, the

group then adds prayers of petition, intercession, and solidarity related to those prayers. After that, the greater part of the time and energy is spent writing prayer cards that offer comfort and support to those from and for whom prayers have been requested.

All are welcome at any point to forward prayer requests to the group. The group receives all requests in the spirit of solidarity; that the gift of being in community would be received by all who are part of it. May God bless the prayers we share, no less than the peace they deliver.

Property

2017 was, in many ways, a typical year for the Hanover Property Committee. Our buildings have been showing their age and continue to offer opportunities. That is all that we can ask for in life — opportunities; perhaps not to troubleshoot why there is no heat in the Church School Hall, why there is a stain on the ceiling of the Children's Sunday School Classroom, or why the Gathering Place Floor has waves, but opportunities nonetheless. Fortunately for Hanover, one opportunity that we were offered this year was to add Herm Pulliam as our sexton — too good an opportunity to pass up. Herm brings a wealth of experience, incredible knowledge, and a tireless work ethic to Hanover. Our sexton has the knowledge and skill to do much of the needed work himself *and* interface well with contractors for what remains. Some of the projects that have been tackled this year include repairs to the Hanover roofing systems, repairs to the brick near the Jefferson Street doors, elevator testing and installation of a new sound system. Some near-term projects include the exploration and repair of the Gathering Place floor and retrofit of the church office. On the more ambitious end of the spectrum, renovation of the Gathering Place kitchen is being explored. Stay tuned — good things are happening. —*Bill Balascio*

Stewardship

The Stewardship Committee's role is to engage the congregation in its year-round effort of contributing to and conserving resources, in part by encouraging pledging of funds and other gifts for the work of the church. We ensure the communication of church needs and provide clarity of the services, work and mission made possible through your giving. Our continuing long-term focus is on giving as reflected in the three P's: Pledging, Per Capita, and Planned Giving. The pledging focus centers on Pledging for Today. This covers Hanover's annual operating budget which funds our ministry and mission programs, as well as maintenance of our facilities. Over the past four years,

we have been able to live within our means, meaning our pledging for today and other income covers our costs, including benevolences.

We continue to encourage each member to contribute her/his portion of our Per Capita allocation, in addition to their pledge. When this happens, we are able to return that amount to our operating budget in support of additional ministry and mission. Giving for Tomorrow represents our long-range stewardship effort. The focus includes how to Define Your Legacy, End-of-Life Issues, and Sustaining the Legacy. Following on informational sessions for members in past years, the committee prepared and distributed a comprehensive overview of the key elements titled, *Stewardship In Life and In Death*, which focuses on how to gather decision-making information, with additional tools for developing your individual plans. —*Ray Kirkpatrick*

Super Sale

Another SUPER Super Sale!

Ruth, Ellen and Becky would like to thank everyone in our Hanover family who contributed in so many ways to making our 2017 Super Sale, on Saturday, May 6, a success. To all the bakers, gardeners and savers of stuff, thanks for sharing it with us. The Hanover building was bustling with activity in the week leading up to the sale. So many helpers were unloading cars, sorting stuff and then pricing it. Truly, it

seemed to be the smoothest operation yet. We extend an extra shout-out and thank you to Stephanie Cornell, for donating nearly the entire contents of her house, before moving to Florida. We counted 75 people who helped in some way, and on the day of the sale, 53 volunteers were there to greet all the shoppers with a smile. The fellowship and connections made with the community are truly the best result of the hard work that goes into the Super Sale. Oh, and making over \$7,400 is pretty nice too! We are so grateful, because this money all goes back into the many things that Hanover Church does for us and for the community.

Worship

Worship Committee members in 2017 were Rev. Andy Jacob, Twyla Evitts (minister of music), Amy Harris, Sue Baker, Ray Kirkpatrick, Tammy Beamer, Sebastian Gross and Eloise Downing. The worship committee plans both Sunday and special worship services throughout the year. Many of those services are outlined in the minister of music's report above. In addition to the Advent/Christmas/Epiphany and Lent/Easter/Pentecost seasons, the theme of "prophets" was focused on throughout the year. Many committees and groups planned and led the congregation in worship services that brought the prophets and their messages to life in many creative and engaging ways! The committee is grateful to all who participate in Hanover's worship life. —*Eloise Downing*



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Hanover Street Presbyterian Church was organized in 1772, and was originally located on Hanover Street — now Sixth Street — before moving to Baynard Boulevard a century ago.

The people of Hanover are committed to celebrating the blessed diversity of God's children, offering hospitality we have received through the Holy Spirit, and working for the justice for which Jesus gave his life.

Knocking on new doors is never easy, nor is entering new places. Jesus knew this. And so he promised his first followers that "for everyone who knocks the door will be opened." The Hanover commitment is that our doors swing wide with the same grace and promise for all who knock. May all who enter these doors know nothing less than Christ's welcome.

Hanover Staff

Pastor: Rev. Andy Jacob (pastor@hanoverchurch.org)

Commissioned Ruling Elder: Tim Arnold (timarnold@hanoverchurch.org)

Church Administrator and Minister of Music: Twyla Evitts (churchadmin@hanoverchurch.org)

Sexton: Herm Pulliam

Child care: Jerri Harmon-Matthews

