

# THE HANOVER HERALD

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



Cellist Lawrence Stomberg presented the first of series of informal Wilmington concerts at Hanover on Sunday afternoon, April 22, playing two of the *Unaccompanied Suites for Cello* by J.S. Bach. Mr. Stomberg, who lives near Hanover, interspersed recordings of people talking about their neighborhood between movements of the sonatas.

## PROFILES IN STEWARDSHIP

*Every faculty you have, your power of thinking or of moving your limbs from moment to moment, is given you by God. If you devoted every moment of your whole life exclusively to His service, you could not give Him anything that was not in a sense His own already.* – C. S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

Stewardship includes how we faithfully and responsibly use our gifts in our journey with God. 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 through our witness and service. In these profiles over the coming months we offer the story of a particular Hanover Saint whose management of his/her gifts serves as an example of faithful stewardship. The goal is to expand our understanding of stewardship, deepen our awareness of our gifts, and inspire our commitment and creativity for how we each can deploy them most faithfully. Here are a few of the goings on reported as a reporter might do, asking who, what, when, where, why.

**Sunday morning, 9 a.m.:** The calendar tells us it's time for Adult Bible Study to begin. But first there is a time for gathering of the group in Church Hall for a continental breakfast. Yes, this is a time of fellowship, of sharing the week's news, and of course a snack. There may be more urgent things to share as class begins. Participants all have their own joys and concerns to share, questions to be asked and, hopefully, someone with answers or solutions to offer. Just the small things that have gone unsettled over the week. Bible study: perhaps based on the scriptures for worship, perhaps someone has something related to what the group has been discussing for some time. Questions asked, responses shared, new viewpoints noted, differences in understandings discussed. New insights gained, old assumptions updated, opinions reconciled. Just neighbors gathered in God's house, in God's name.

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## For Some Items, There's Life After the Super Sale

If you've ever wondered what happens to items not sold at the Super Sale, wonder no more!

Of course, many things are given to Goodwill, Habitat for Humanity, Family Promise and other organizations, but the sheets, towels and other pieces of fabric that are left over have another path to travel. Our own Susie Watson gathers all linen table items that are the right size and material. She takes them to a group of women she has been working with for about 6 years at the Claymore Community Center. From there they are taken to Bethesda United Methodist Church in Middletown, where these materials are transformed into sleeping bags,

Before they are rolled up they are filled with soap, socks, crocheted hats and scarves along with a copy of the Upper Room or some other inspirational booklet. Then they are brought to Wilmington and given



to the Salvation Army to be distributed to homeless individuals in the city. So, as you can see, your "stuff" can become someone else's bed! Thanks for all of your donations to the Super Sale, Clothing Closet and Food Pantry throughout the year!

# FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

## From Surviving . . .

Well over a year and a half ago we began a new ministry that focused on providing support, information and solidarity for people who are affected by mental illness themselves or of a loved one. Twice a month, gatherings take place in which peoples' stories are spoken and heard. To say the least no two gatherings are the same, and there is no predicting the paths that are traveled.

Through these meetings much as been learned. First and foremost, it is so clear how meaningful and powerful it is to have a safe, secure and trusted place to speak openly and honestly. Time and again participants have expressed great relief and comfort in just "getting it out."

We have also learned how much we gain from hearing about the experiences of others. Over and over information and insights have been offered that have in turn been of great benefit to others. In addition to receiving relief for the soul and spirit, the gatherings also offer concrete information that has provided new avenues of assistance and support.

Perhaps the greatest learning, however, has been an unanticipated one. The journey from surviving to thriving is from a place of day-to-day survival mode to a place of health and wholeness where all our gifts are fully employed; leading us to thrive, emotionally, physically, and spiritually.

In hearing each other's stories of struggle and courage, we have discovered that many other issues share several common dynamics in the journey from surviving to thriving with mental illness. The pursuit of justice, recovering from loss (people, things, jobs), overcoming addictions, repairing broken relationships, or managing overwhelming schedules, expectations, and commitments can each leave one in survival mode.

Given this learning the parameters of the From Surviving to Thriving ministry are being expanded. Rather than focus exclusively on the struggles associated with mental health, the gatherings will address the larger dynamics of moving from surviving to thriving. It is the hope that by making this change more people will receive the benefits and blessings of the ministry.

Nothing else about the gatherings will change: they remain open to anyone who would like to attend; everything that is discussed and shared stays with the group; all people, viewpoints, perspectives, and experiences are honored; and the meetings will uphold the agreed-upon 90-minute time frame.

Oh, yes . . . the gatherings are on the first and third Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the church.

May God bless the paths we take and the journeys we share, that they would lead us . . .

## . . . to Thriving

*Peace, Andy*

# FINANCE REPORT

At the April 2018 Session meeting, the treasurer's report for February 2018 was reviewed and approved. Our combined pledged and unpledged regular income totaled \$44,161, which is 23 percent of the budget goal at 16 percent of the year. This figure may include some giving and pledges that are paid in full at the beginning of the year. Regular expenses exceeded regular income by approximately \$8,800. This is partly due to the total per capita assessment of \$5,191 reflected at the beginning of the year.

The finance committee met in April to review the budget and to discuss the potential for providing some level of health care coverage for staff. The pastor's health care is covered in our budget through the PCUSA Board of Pensions, but Hanover has not been able to provide health coverage for the rest of the staff for many years. We have been in close contact with the Weiner Benefits Group and they have assisted in a comparison of plans. A recommendation will be reviewed by current serving elders at the May meeting of Session. — *Ellen Casson*

## Update on Pledging

Our congregational budget shows an expected income of \$219,100. This is comprised of anticipated income both pledged and non-pledged, loose offering, per capita and other income from fundraising, and memorials. Pledges to date total \$143,643.

The Per Capita assessment for each congregation's member is \$29.00. Our 2018 assessment totals \$5,191. 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 as we typically pay this assessment proportioned across the year. To date members have contributed \$1,141 towards our assessment.

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

# CALENDAR

**Session meeting**, 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 1

**From Surviving to Thriving**, 7 p.m., Thursdays, May 3 and 17

**Yoga**, 6:15 p.m., Fridays, May 4, 11, 18, 25

**Pro-Series concert**, 7:30 p.m., Friday, May 4

**Super Sale**, 9 a.m., Saturday, May 5

**Deacon's meeting**, 5:45 p.m., Monday, May 7

**K'nittee**, 5:30 p.m., Mondays, May 7, 14, 21 and 28

**Deacons**, 5:45 p.m., Monday, May 7

**Post-Religion Discussion**, 7:30 p.m., Mondays, May 7, 14, 21, 28

**Faith In Action**, 5 p.m., Thursday, May 10

**Invitational Team**, 5:30 p.m., Monday, May 14

**Pasta Dinner**, 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, May 16

**Women's Bible Study**, 12:30 p.m., Thursday, May 17

**Special Session meeting**, 7 p.m., Tuesday, May 22

**Theology on Tap**, 7:30 p.m., Thursday, May 24



## Profiles in Stewardship

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**Saturday night, every so often:** In the Gathering Place or Church School Hall. How did the gathering become known as Jeremiah's Coffee House? A collection of church members, community folks, even a few newcomers passing by. Food on the table prepared by loving hands with all of the fellowship you could want. No leftovers here! Then the fun begins... Music played, poetry read – some oldies and some original stuff – and many other talents shared. Listening is considered a talent, too.

**Tuesday evening, once a month, about 7 p.m.:** The doors are flung open and the Washington Heights Neighborhood meeting is about to begin. You'll meet many Hanover members here, but also the greater neighborhood family. Community, city, and broader relevant topics are on the agenda. Invited guests share their particular insights, and community members share their views. Concerns and issues raised, solutions offered, decisions made. God's people at work!

And more... Providing leadership to the Black History Month preparations involving Hanover and the broader community; recording Joys & Concerns in worship and offering all a timely email prayer list to Hanover folks; providing church office coverage; offering leadership to the Washington Heights community organization and liaison with Hanover; participant on the Invitational Committee working to make Hanover a more inclusive church; oh yes, and as one of the head ushers.

There is a guiding light behind these efforts and the focus of this first Profiles in Stewardship. His name is George Turner. George would tell you that he does not do this alone. His leadership style is one of collaboration. George is a good listener and a patient teacher. His talents and gifts are many and shared generously.

Stewardship is an expression of our faith and our works coming together in actions to the glory of God.

Thank you, George, on behalf of the Stewardship Committee, and the congregation.

## DEACON'S CORNER

*This year, each Deacon is going to take a turn at highlighting a member of their Care Group. This month, Maggie Alexander talked with Ralph and Sue Anne Fortney*

Ralph and Sue Anne have been members of Hanover for 60 years, having joined in 1958, a time when the number of communicants was more than a thousand and the new educational wing was being built.

Ralph and Sue Ann will celebrate their 64th wedding anniversary this November. They have two daughters, Janice, who was married at Hanover, and lives in North Carolina, and Sarah who lives in Georgia. They have been blessed with four granddaughters and four great-grandsons.

Ralph spent his entire 39 year career with the DuPont Co. He held several personnel and management positions, retiring from the International Department as group director for Latin America. After graduating from Moravian College for Women, Sue Ann worked briefly as an executive secretary for Atlantic City Electric Co. After marrying Ralph, she became a full-time mother and homemaker. Sue Ann was also an active volunteer. Besides her work at Hanover she was active in PEO and the Flower Market (serving one year as chair).

Hanover offered the Fortneys many opportunities to serve. Sue Ann played piano for the Sunday School, taught the primary class and was active in the Christian Ed program, the Women's Association and the Female Harmony Society (of which she is still a supportive member.) She especially enjoyed working with a group of women who were newly released from prison. Ralph taught the junior high class and served as Deacon and Elder, as well as in many other capacities. They agree that worshipping as a family and participating in the life of Hanover are among their most treasured memories. While no longer able to attend, they remain connected via the Hanover Herald, e-mails, and personal contacts.

Ralph and Sue Ann moved to the Country House over 12 years ago. They say it is known as a "community of loving kindness." It offers many amenities including wonderful health care, and a vibrant spiritual life. Over the years Sue Ann has served on the hospitality committee, played the piano during weekly services in the skilled nursing and dementia units, and been a caring friend, visiting those in health care. Ralph has served as past-president of the Residence Council. He serves on a number of committees and is currently chairing the Country House's Master Planning Committee which involves a major expansion. He is pleased to act as liturgist during chapel services as well as serve communion and sing in the choir.

Hanover has been blessed to have Ralph and Sue Ann as giving, caring, and hard-working members of Hanover for so many years.

## Hot Dog Cart Survives to Serve Again

The Hot Dog Cart lives to serve another season! It was looking pretty dismal for our Hot Dog Cart at the beginning of March. A huge pothole on I-95 had just about done her in. Parts of her flew off on the highway and the rest of her was hanging on by a rivet. We wondered if this was to be her "swan song."

Fortunately, at Hanover we don't really know the meaning of the word "can't." Thanks to positive thinking and good friends, it looks like we will live to sell a dog for another day. Now the cart has been re-riveted and parts have been replaced and she is back up and running. Please join us every Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for a Doggone Good time at Hanover!



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## Readers Get Two Books for Discussion

An ongoing, chapter by chapter discussion of books related to deepening our understanding of our faith (and our doubts!) is taking place on Mondays from 7:30 to 9 p.m.. The group recently completed *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time*, by Marcus Borg. On Monday, May 7, it will begin to discuss *The Last Week*, by Borg and John Dominic Crossan. They tackle the ambiguities and discrepancies between the books in the Bible relating to the final days of Jesus' life, while encouraging us to understand the symbolism beyond history or even fact. The book illuminates both the

unjust domination systems of imperial Rome, and the justice of God's kingdom for which Jesus passionately fought.

On June 24, after church, we will be discussing *The One in a Million Boy*, by Monica Wood. It features an 11-year-old boy, his mother and absent father, and a wily 104-year-old woman, each of them at the same time sympathetic and flawed. The book explores loss and mourning, along with reparation and redemption. Their story is told with great empathy, and the novel, while replete with grief, is at the same time heartwarming, funny and uplifting.

## May Birthdays

- 1 Herman Pulliam
- 3 Betty Jeanne Kennedy
- 4 Karen Hudson  
Jane Putscher
- 5 Del Boulden
- 6 Sanet Van Rooyen
- 9 Bill Klawitter
- 10 Ralph Headley
- 13 Kathryn Thompson
- 14 Carl Nieberle
- 16 Marc Pulliam
- 19 Russ Buckley  
Gloria Rivers
- 21 Nancy Bayard  
Mary Davis  
Jonathan Jacob
- 22 Tommy Tucker
- 26 Dessa Hattenfield  
Katie Leep
- 27 Eloise Downing
- 27 Miranda Garrett
- 30 Ali Anderson  
Betty Bayard
- 31 Lorie Tudor

## Forget the Pasta—It's Time for a Cook-Out

Our Third Wednesday Pasta dinners will become Third Wednesday Neighborhood Cook-Outs starting in May. We'll be having hotdogs, hamburgers and whatever anyone would like to bring to a Pot Luck Picnic at 18th and Jefferson St. Starting at 5 p.m. until 6:30 or we run out of food, whichever comes first! Please come on down and join us for a great time with our friends and neighbors!