

# THE HANOVER HERALD

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

## Super Again!

May 5 was a perfect day for the Super Sale. The weather was comfortable and the lines forming on Jefferson and Baynard were full of people anticipating great deals. And that is exactly what they got! "Stuff" went flying out the doors and our customers were happy with their purchases. Our young people got a lot of exercise carrying furniture and other items to cars for customers.

This event is always a win/win for Hanover. Our members have the opportunity get to know each other on a whole other level than just at Coffee Hour on Sunday morning. A lot of laughing and camaraderie takes place along with the angst of is there enough stuff and where will it all go. Thanks to the hard work of so many Hanover saints, we are able to report that we raised a little over \$6,000. And when we are considered the "Dollar Store" of church sales, that is saying a lot! It can honestly be said that at the end of the day a good time was had by all! — Ellen, Ruth and Becky



On Sunday, June 17, Faith in Action will be highlighting issues related to the national Poor People's Campaign, which is a national effort to unite people across the country in challenging the evils of "systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, ecological devastation and the nation's distorted morality."

The original Poor People's campaign was initiated 50 years ago by Martin Luther King Jr. Honoring the commitment of the 222nd General Assembly, the PCUSA announced its full participation in the current campaign, at all levels, from grassroots to the

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New members Christopher Jacob, Judy Van Rooyen and Jacob Arnold were honored with a cake at the coffee hour. See their faith statements on Page 3.

## Three Are Confirmed and Welcomed as Members

*"...if one member is honored [much less three!], all rejoice together with it."*

—I Corinthians 12:26

On Sunday, June 3, we witnessed with joy the confirmation of Jacob Arnold, Christopher Jacob, and Judy Van Rooyen. It was a rich celebration of their many accomplishments over the last several months, and a profound moment of inclusion as they made their membership vows.

Theirs was not the only confirmation that day. On that day all that we aspire to be and do as a community seeking to follow Jesus Christ was confirmed. In that service we expressed vows of commitment to God and each other. We proclaimed

our deepest belief that we are all gifted and called by a God who promises to accompany us throughout our journeys. We received affirmation about the power of being a part in the body of Christ we call the church. And we celebrated one of the momentous steps in the journey of faith when public professions of faith are offered, and then received with rousing and communal statements of support.

We offer again our congratulations and blessings to Christopher, Jacob and Judy; no less our gratitude for the community of faith that God has blessed us all to be part of. May the rejoicing we do with them resound, and may it bring us . . .

Peace, Andy

## Hospitality, Diversity, Justice: Stepping Out

Praise God, the passion and momentum for service at Hanover never wanes. Since 1772, by the power of the Holy Spirit, the Hanover Saints have continuously sought to extend the presence of God ever deeper and wider. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be...

Over the course of the last two years there have been ongoing conversations about how we might engage our many partners in the expansion of the programs and ministries that emanate from 18th and Baynard. In the last few months the Session has taken several actions that are laying the foundation and giving direction to plans to transform our relationships and ministries. Here is a quick summary.

We are pursuing a vision for the transformation of the Gathering Place so that it might be used as a community kitchen and café, as well as provide space for more ministries, services, and events.

Architectural plans and estimates are being collected to upgrade the kitchen in the Gathering Place, with hopes that a handicapped accessible bathroom also would be added.

We have entered into a contract with consultants who are helping to identify funding sources and then lead us in making grant applications for the expenses related to the construction.

Along with the Washington Heights Blueprint Community Team, we are engaging the Jefferson Street Center, Inc. in the re-forma-

## Poor People's Campaign

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highest levels of leadership "as part of our longstanding work to be in solidarity with poor and working class people."

([www.presbyterianmission.org/opw/2017/12/04/announcing-pcusa-commitments-poor-peoples-campaign-national-call-moral-revival](http://www.presbyterianmission.org/opw/2017/12/04/announcing-pcusa-commitments-poor-peoples-campaign-national-call-moral-revival)).

For more information about the national campaign, go to [www.poorpeoplescampaign.org](http://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org).

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tion of its by-laws and board so that it would be the non-profit organization that assumes responsibility for programs at the church.

In our ongoing efforts to reach out to people with the invitation to join in the Hanover journey, we are also seeking to expand spiritual services and programs. In the pursuit of this goal we will be turning to our Presbytery partners seeking support through its newly-formed Ignite Team, which has been given the responsibility for receiving proposals from, and making decisions with, congregations seeking to enhance their outreach.

And there are even plans emerging for the outside: working to upgrade the space around the building so that it would reflect our desire and commitment to be accessible, hospitable, and welcoming.

So, finally, an invitation and exhortation. As there is so much more to tell, we have scheduled a forum after worship on Sunday, July 1. We will break bread together and offer fuller explanations about the goals, plans, and paths toward these developments, while answering questions and receiving additional thoughts. If you are not available that day, don't worry, there will be detailed and regular updates all along the way in the coming months. And, as always, my door, inbox and phone lines are always open to receive your thoughts.

May God bless us as we serve and work together to extend our hospitality, rejoice in our diversity, and pursue God's justice in our community, and throughout creation.

Peace, *Andy*

## Book Discussion June 24

The Hanover book group is meeting this month, on June 24 after worship to discuss *The One in a Million Boy*. Its primary characters are a very elderly but savvy woman, an 11-year-old boy, and his mother and his absent father.

Through them the book explores loss and mourning, reparation and redemption. While it explores grief, the novel is at the same time funny, heartwarming, and uplifting.

At the May 2018 Session meeting, the treasurer's report for March 2018 was reviewed and approved. Our combined pledged and unpledged regular income totaled \$67,588, which is 35 percent of the budget goal at 25 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 \$7,706. 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 employees, who do not already have coverage. The pastor's health care is covered in our budget through the PCUSA Board of Pensions and the sexton already has health care coverage. With the assistance of the Weiner Benefits Group and a comparison of plans, the finance committee recommended to Session that the budget be revised to include the addition of 50 percent of the cost of health care coverage for the Church Administrator, beginning June 2018. This was approved at the May meeting of Session.— *Ellen Casson*

## Harmony Society Meets

The annual meeting of the Female Harmony Society will be Saturday, June 16, at the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, 503 Duncan Road. The gathering opens with refreshments at 9 a.m., with the business meeting at 9:30.

Since 1814 the Female Harmony Society has been impacting the lives of those in need in Wilmington with a particular attention to children and education. In fact, the society played a critical role in the establishment of the public school system in Delaware. The annual meeting of the Society is a great time to learn more about what FHS is doing to carry on this legacy of service.

New members are welcome. Information is online at [www.femaleharmonysociety.org](http://www.femaleharmonysociety.org)

# Their Statements of Faith from Confirmation Class

*As part of their training the confirmands wrote their own statements of faith. Here they are:*

**Chris Jacob:** The Bible has impressed me since I was a kid. I loved it whenever anyone read me a story, and the bible was no exception. My parents were pastors, so I heard a lot about it growing up to this point. The Bible looks to a 7-year-old in Miss Nancy's Sunday school class like a set of super special stories.

The main character of this story is GOD, a super-duper hero for 4-year old Chris. God did anything God wanted to with no parents. That's not how I see it now. I don't think god is perfect, but I think god's power is. God is just like you or me, but the power of infinite control causes a great difference in appearance and actuals presence.

As I got older I realized it's not so much about the stories being real, since God breaks the laws of physics and the logic of mathematics at a word over and over through the Bible. Explicit laws defy my personal beliefs throughout the Bible, but I've been told to read between the lines when it helps me. It never makes perfect sense on the first read, and the questions I get from it are OK.

I get my answers from Hanover—and significantly more questions. Not just my dad in the pulpit. I get questions from everyone, even if I'm not talking about the Bible. It's a spiritual guide, which means it's designed to help you be with others. I think its only worship when there's more than one person worshiping together as a group. What better way to try and work towards the inside out goals the Bible sets than to be in a community of like-hearted and often like-minded people? There's your question from me. That's about all you'll get at Hanover—a community of people who care—and help you worship thoughtfully. I love it.

I WANT to find new doubts, since that's how I learn best, by challeng-

ing myself. Physics don't apply, but how does the Bible work on a literal, objective level without them? I'll just have to work it out with myself—and my church family.

One thing I have no doubt about is that the Bible applies to ME. I am a part of the greatest story ever told—and that's pretty awe-inspiring. I love stories where I have a sense of the big picture, and I'm a big picture, cynical, nihilistic thinker myself. Nothing excites me more than knowing that I can impact that big picture in the world with the help of God and the church.

**Judy van Rooyen:** I believe that God isn't there to fear, but to love. He will always be there, right by your side, and in your heart. God knows just how far to push you in life, so that you're challenged and engaged, but he won't ask you to do things he knows you can't do. At first when the Lord calls your name for a task you feel like it's impossible but in the Bible many of the things there seem impossible such as when Noah built the Ark, or when Moses freed slaves from Egypt. They all ended up putting trust in the Lord's will, and maybe his sacred plan.

Three years ago, I heard the Lord calling my name. He told me to do whatever I could to stop climate change, as I went along in life he told me what I must do to reach my goal, such as join a club called Science Fair, and starting a petition in my school. Like Noah I have no idea what will happen, or what he has planned, but he'll always be there.

Like a game of chess, every piece the Lord has, is important. If you listen closely anyone and all of life that exists can and will hear their calling from the Lord, because nothing is technically impossible, it will just be really extremely hard, for the things you think is impossible—they are not.

**Jacob Arnold:** I believe in God the creator, that he is true perfection and oversees the earth he made;

however, I believe he is not in TOTAL control of all of humanity, but rather influences us through his spirit and teachings to do the right thing, morally and ethically. I believe each person who chooses to believe was created in the image of God, not the exact image of God as in race, or ethnicity, but in utter and bare humanity. We were given our very being by God and should live our lives to do the right thing. I also believe we were all given a "fraction" of God's being through the holy spirit that resides in all humans.

I also believe in Jesus Christ, whom I believe is lord and savior. God's only son, I believe that Jesus died for our sins and endured great suffering for humanity to continue. I also believe that Jesus rose on the third day, and ascended to be with god, and that one day, Jesus will return to our world to judge the living and the dead. Yet even as we live our lives we are being judged and only when we die, I believe, will we be given the verdict.

On the topic of sin, I believe it is a key factor in human nature and is impossible to be avoided. Of course, it is best to try your hardest to avoid sin, but no one is perfect and one day you'll do something you'll regret. But in God's everlasting grace and mercy, you will be forgiven; because in Christianity, I believe that salvation is a promise given to us by God during the creation, that we are being saved each and every day. I also believe in the Holy Spirit, and that it resides within us and helps us to maintain our faith, and in the end please God and do the right thing.

I believe the Bible is the ineffable word of god, but it was written by humans as it was passed down. It was in a sense, "dumbed down" from God's infallible position, to a method of writing in which humanity could understand. I believe the Bible was written by what God had said to the many people who wrote it.

**Vacation Bible School for all ages, July 23 — 26**

*Dinner from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., following by Bible study and activities for all ages. At the Arnold home, 2105 N. Van Buren*

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## DEACON'S CORNER

*This year, each Deacon is going to take a turn at highlighting a member of their Care Group. This month, Norris Cramr talked with Lorie Tudor.*

Lorie (Herrick) Tudor was born in Beach, N.D. Her father later became a Methodist pastor. She went to Westmar College in Iowa, where she met her future husband, William Tudor. Lorie then attended the University of Pennsylvania, where she got a master's degree in social work (MSW).

Lorie and Bill were living in Wilmington and were members of a Food Co-op in the basement of the manse. While working there she noticed a home next to Hanover. A friend of Bill's who was in real estate offered to sell the house they were living in. They looked at the house next to Hanover (which they now occupy), and made an offer the next day. They thought the house was gorgeous.

Lorie and Bill were not going to church when they moved into their new home, but church had been important to them growing up. A few months later Lorie was pregnant with Martha and felt she wanted her children to have that experience. When they visited Hanover they found the people friendly, the music good, and the sermon intelligent. They were hooked. Bill started singing in the choir, and suggested she join. Lorie recalls toddler Martha crawling under the piano during choir rehearsals. Their daughter Anna later followed.

Lorie's favorite things about Hanover today are the commitment to social justice, her joy in being on Faith in Action, and singing in the choir.

Lorie loves the diversity of Hanover and the outreach to the community with the Food Pantry, Clothing Closet, etc. She still finds the music good, the people friendly, and the service intelligent.

## June Birthdays

- 1 Karen Palermo
- 3 Natalie Jobes, Susan Woodbury
- 6 Susan Balascio
- 8 Cindy Kirylik
- 14 Tricia Harvey
- 17 Holly Alexander,  
Cindy Tomevi
- 19 Amy Harris
- 20 Cheryl Heiks
- 22 Brian Gray
- 23 Eleanor Young
- 27 David Harris, Walter Scott

## CALENDAR

**Prayer Circle**, 8:30 a.m., Mondays

**K'nittee**, 5:30 p.m., Mondays

**Post-Religion Discussion**, 7:30 p.m., Mondays

**Zumba**, 6 p.m. on Tuesdays, 6:30 p.m. on Thursdays

**Yoga**, 6:15 p.m., Fridays

**Deacon's meeting**, 5:45 p.m., Monday, June 4

**Session**, 7 p.m., Tuesday, June 5

**Worship meeting**, 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 6

**From Surviving to Thriving**, 7 p.m., Thursdays, June 7 and 21

**Invitational Team**, 5:30 p.m., Monday, June 11

**Faith in Action**, 5 p.m., Thursday, June 14

**Female Harmony Society**, 9:30 a.m., Saturday, June 16

**Jeremiah's Coffee House**, 5:30 p.m., Saturday, June 16

**Church Cookout**, 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 20

**Women's Bible Study**, 12:30 p.m., Thursday, June 21

## Despite the Rain, First Cook-Out Draws a Crowd

Our first cook-out of the season turned into a "cook-in" due to the rainy weather on May 16. We still had the necessary hot dogs and hamburgers thanks to our chef, Tim Arnold. Neighbors brought salads to share and our friends at the University of Delaware generously provided the meat for the event. Our three confirmands, Judy, Christopher and Jacob helped with set-up and clean-up as well as served the meal to our hungry neighbors. We had over 50 people come in out of the rain to enjoy a meal in the Gathering Place. Our next cook-out will be on Wednesday, June 20; if the weather is more cooperative we will be able to eat outside. Come on down and join us!