

THE HANOVER HERALD

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



Andy Jacob and his family were honored Oct. 28 with a special service and reception to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Andy's call to serve as Hanover's pastor. Andy and Nona were presented with green stoles woven by Sue Balascio. Read Andy's reflection in his column on Page 2.

Thanksgiving Baskets

The Food Pantry will again be partnering with the BTL Foundation to provide Thanksgiving turkey baskets to families in our community. Our Tuesday hot dog cart sales have once again exceeded our expectations and we will be able to pay for this project with the proceeds.

Donations, however, would be appreciated. We would ask for cranberry sauce, stuffing mix, desserts and turkeys. Any monetary donations will go towards buying fresh produce to include in the baskets. On Sunday, Nov. 18, Discipleship classes will help assemble the bags during the Sunday School hour.

UnGifts Returns, Offers A New Gift Option

Faith in Action will offer UnGifts again this year. This activity, which began in 2006, offers the opportunity to give someone the gift of a donation to an activity that makes a difference in the wider world. FIA provides a gift card along with an insert describing the project which you can give to the person in whose honor you made the donation.

Over the years, we have offered a wide range of gift options. This year we are offering:

- Hanover's **Food Pantry**: provides food for people in need weekly
- The national **Presbyterian Disaster Assistance**: helps communities adversely affected by crisis and catastrophic events, and through that assistance witnesses to the healing love of Christ

- **Read In/Read Out**: gives incarcerated parents a way to stay connected with their children, providing recordings of the parents reading books to their child and giving

Continued on Page 3

A Softball From God

When my alarm went off this morning it was just that: a warning that this particular Sunday would be as conflicted as nearly any I've lived through.

My first conscious thoughts were about the day before and its news from the Squirrel Hill neighborhood in Pittsburgh where 11 people were murdered at the Tree of Life Synagogue. I had not slept well as I could not help but imagine what this morning was like for the loved ones of the victims, and for that congregation. I tossed and turned with nightmarish images of something like that happening closer to home . . .

My next conscious thoughts were about the day that lay ahead. It was the long-anticipated day when we would be celebrating the 10th anniversary of my call to serve as pastor at Hanover. In the divine game of rejoicing, this day was a softball from God. After all, we would be sharing in the joy of how much we have accomplished working together with common resolve in pursuit of a common vision: how to most faithfully bring the light, love, and justice of God into our little corner of creation. And we would be recognizing this anniversary in the midst of a most inspiring capital campaign that is exceeding all expectations; a campaign that will enable us to build upon the rock-solid Hanover foundation while proclaiming "This Is Our Time."

So it was with a conflicted soul and divided spirit that I arrived at the church before the sun had crested the horizon. Throughout the morning's many and inspiring moments I experienced a deep sense of distraction and dissonance; wrestling with how to reconcile these two realities.

This has been the buildup to offer two heartfelt thoughts. First, I want to express my deepest gratitude for all the affirmations and expressions of appreciation you offered Nona,

Christopher, Jonathan, and me. This morning we experienced again and acutely the gifts and blessings you have consistently offered; the same ones that have sustained us over the last 10 years.

Second, if, at any point, you experienced any sense of distance, distraction, or dissonance from me that you would know its source. How could any of us have ever known that when we acquired a piece of art on Tuesday to be presented in worship depicting the Tree of Life what additional meaning it would command on Sunday?

By the grace of God, however, the day didn't end after church, and God wasn't done with me yet. As things were winding down at the reception at 18th and Baynard I hit the trail down I-95 to attend a prayer vigil on The Green at the University of Delaware. In the midst of the prayers, songs, stories and exhortations I realized that the distraction and dissonance I experienced in the morning was of my own making. I realized that the relationships and the accomplishments we were celebrating in the morning are the very gifts from God that provide the strength and resolve to ensure that we will never be defeated by violence and hatred.

And so, in a divinely ironic way, the juxtaposition of Squirrel Hill and our 10-year anniversary was after all a softball from God. In the sanctuary at Hanover and on the green in Newark I received the same enduring message: there is no darkness that will not be overcome by the light of God.

At the other end of this day my gratitude is for each and all of you, the Hanover Saints, for being the cloud of witnesses through whom I have experienced the power of community to heal, reconcile, and transform.

At the other end of this day my praise is for the grace of God, which binds people of faith into communities through which the love of God is revealed. May it be so on this day, and in all of our days to come.

Peace, *Andy*

Looking at November, our choir will be singing at the Interfaith Thanksgiving Service and preparing music for Advent and Christmas. 'Tis the season!

Would you like to sing with the choir but can't commit weekly? We would love to have you sing with us for Advent and Christmas. Please come to choir rehearsal on Wednesday, Nov. 7 – we'll be starting music for this upcoming beautiful season.

We're also looking forward to our Christmas Eve service, where our guest musicians are: Augustine Mercante, countertenor, and cellists Larry Stomberg and Jen Stomberg.

What a joyous time in the life of the church!

Soli deo Gloria (only for the glory of God) — *Twyla*

Coffee? Muffin? Soup?

Passing the church on your way to work? Stop by on Tuesday mornings at 8 for a cup of coffee and muffin to get your day off to a great start! The Hanover Sidewalk Cafe will be offering fresh brewed coffee and home baked muffins at 8. All for a suggested donation of \$2 to the Food Pantry. Then at 10 we will become the place to get Doggone Good Hot Dogs!

At the end of November the hot dog cart will be going into hibernation for a few months. In its place will be Souper Tuesday. After our Coffee Hour starting at 8, we'll be serving up soup and grilled cheese sandwiches from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thanks to all of our "regular" patrons who made our summer such a success. Meet us inside for a meal meant to warm you up with good food and good conversation with friends and neighbors.

Eleanor Warren Service

Eleanor Warren, member of Hanover for over 50 years, died Oct. 29 in Wilmore, Ken. She was 93. Hanover and its members were a dear part of her extended family that she missed immensely when she moved to Kentucky. The family hopes to have a celebration of her life Dec. 1 at Hanover.

DACA Students Welcome at Delaware State

While the DACA* program nationally is being litigated in several U.S. courts, people who have been accepted into DACA continue to work legally and go to school. At this time they are not subject to deportation. DACA recipients must renew their status every two years, at a cost of \$495.

Delaware State University has 112 DACA students enrolled, 13 of them from Delaware. The remaining 99 are from Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina, states that do not allow DACA students to attend their state colleges or, if they do, charge them out-of-state tuition. They are at Delaware State because it is one of five colleges and universities in the U.S. that accept these out-of-state students at in-state tuition rates. They were brought by their parents to the U.S. from Mexico and Central America, Brazil, Venezuela, the Caribbean, and three countries in Africa,

A privately-funded scholarship pays for their tuition, student housing, meal plan, and student health plan. These students typically have no financial assistance from their families and most of them are working. They still need to pay for books, computer access codes to do homework and quizzes, and other items to further their education, such as graduate and professional school qualifying exams. Text books average \$1,200 per year; the access codes, mostly in math and the sciences, cost \$100 per course.

* *Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA)* is an American immigration policy that allows non-citizens who were brought to the United States as children to be deferred from deportation for a renewable two-year period, and to become eligible for a work permit. Recipients cannot have a record of felonies or serious misdemeanors. Unlike the proposed DREAM Act, DACA does not provide a path to citizenship. The policy was announced by President Obama in 2012. Additional information is available at wikipedia.org and www.ilrc.org/daca.

DEACON'S CORNER

This year, each Deacon is going to take a turn at highlighting a member of their Care Group. This month, Terre Gilchrist interviews with Marjorie Pulliam.

I had the pleasure of talking with Marjorie Pulliam for the Hanover Herald this month. Most of you already know that Marjorie is the lovely wife of Herman Pulliam, our wonderful sexton. Herm and Marjorie have been married for 43 years and are the parents of three children, Marc (who resides in Maryland); Brett (New Jersey) and Marshae (Delaware). They are also the proud grandparents of three grandchildren: Devin, Kourtney and Ava.

As the old saying goes – “A child shall lead them.” Marjorie shared that it was through their young children, who were attending Hanover activities that led them to join over 30 years ago! She has enjoyed serving as one of our Deacons in the past and spoke of the warm and welcoming congregation at Hanover; the music and the convenient location that are among the things that have kept her a member for three decades.

With Thanksgiving just around the corner, Marjorie spoke about her feelings of gratitude, her joys and her blessings. About 20 years ago, a doctor told Marjorie that she would only have about 2 years to live due to a serious cardiac diagnosis. “Well,” as Marjorie proudly testified, “I’m still here!” Praise God for the blessings of a successful heart transplant and continued health! She spoke about her gratitude for all the loving and supportive family and network of friends who have been there for her over the years and the joys of sharing in the life of her children and grandchildren.

Traveling has also been a blessing for Marjorie who has visited London, England, and other European countries as well as several cruises to the Caribbean. On the home front, she enjoys crossword puzzles and going to see a good movie.

We could not end our conversation without mentioning the gift of “food on the table,” especially at Thanksgiving. One of her family’s favorites is her sweet potato casserole which is always on menu! So, if you’re looking for something sweet and delicious for your holiday meal, you might be able to obtain the recipe from Marjorie!

Thank you, Marjorie for allowing me to meet you and share a part of your life story with the congregation. Most of you already know her and I am certain, would agree with me, that she is a gracious, thoughtful and courageous woman who has taken her gift of life and blessed those around her with her love, her care and her generous spirit.



UnGifts Returns

Continued from Page 1

ing copies of the books to the children

• **Windows of Hope:** a project of Delaware’s Interfaith Power and Light that winterizes older homes in West Center City Wilmington to save energy and increase the comfort of residents, at the same time providing work and skill training

for the community members doing the work

• **Books for DACA:** provides textbooks for DACA students at Delaware State University on scholarships which do not cover the cost of books, which are substantial. [See the article at left for more information.]

We encourage you to give an UnGift to someone you care about, and/or include UnGifts on the list of presents you would like to get!

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CALENDAR

Prayer Circle, 8:30 a.m., Mondays
 K'nittee, 5:30 p.m., Mondays
 Zumba, 6 p.m., Tuesdays
 Clothing Closet, 9 a.m., Wednesdays
 Bible Study, 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays
 Choir, 7 p.m., Wednesdays
 Food Pantry, 8 a.m., Thursdays
 Zumba, 6:30 p.m., Thursdays
 Yoga, 6:15 p.m., Fridays
 From Surviving to Thriving, 7 p.m., Thursdays,
 Nov. 1 & 15
 Finance meeting, 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 1
 Kay Twing memorial service, 11 a.m., Satur-
 day, Nov. 3
 Girl Scouts, 12:30 p.m., Sundays, Nov. 4 and
 Nov. 18
 Deacons, 5:45 p.m., Monday, Nov. 5
 Session, 7 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 6
 Faith in Action, 5 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 8
 Invitational Team, 4 p.m., Monday, Nov. 12
 Theology on Tap, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 13
 Staff meeting, noon, Wednesday, Nov. 14
 Fried chicken potluck dinner, 5 p.m., Wednes-
 day, Nov. 14
 Women's Bible Study, 12:30 p.m., Thursday,
 Nov. 15
 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, Tuesday, Nov.
 20, at Shiloh Baptist Church, 215 W. 23rd St.
 —5:30 p.m. veggie and dairy potluck, 7 p.m.
 service

November Birthdays

1 Heather Dorsey	16 Amber Simmons
3 Lawondale Parker	19 Devin Pulliam
5 Kayla Kirylik	22 Kathryn Long
6 Denny Schreyer	23 Lillian Grasty
Austin Wilson	26 Ralph Fortney
7 Sue Ann Fortney	Jeanne Lewis
29 Sue Steeves	

Stewardship Sunday

November 11, 2018

We will receive and dedicate pledges
 during our worship service.

A letter with details of the 2019
 pledging campaign will arrive by mail
 early in November.

Remember, pledges can be offered at any time,
 and may always be adjusted as necessary during
 the year as circumstances change.

Stewardship

sharing the gifts we have been given

From Pasta Wednesday to Chicken

Third Wednesday Pasta Supper will be changing in Novem-
 ber. Our meal will be on the second Wednesday due to Thanks-
 giving and for a change of pace, we will be having a fried
 chicken pot luck. In honor of Thanksgiving, we would like to
 give anyone who would like to participate, the opportunity to
 share a favorite Thanksgiving dish with our group. We'll pro-
 vide the chicken and look forward to seeing what you all will
 bring to the table! See you on Wednesday, Nov. 14 at 5!