

THE HANOVER HERALD

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



Pastor Andy Jacob took to the heights of Hanover on Nov. 18, when pledges to the This Is Our Time campaign received. For more on the campaign, read Andy's column on Page 2.

Food Pantry Needs Your Help

The Food Pantry at Hanover has been operating for over thirty years. In that time, we have provided food for hundreds of families in Wilmington and even farther away. It has become a place where people come on Thursdays, not only for food to take home, but for a hot breakfast and conversation with friends. It is one of the welcoming faces of Hanover.

From the roots of the Food Pantry have grown other ministries, such as the Hot Dog Cart in the summer,

Souper Tuesday in the winter, Third Wednesday Pasta Dinner and Thanksgiving turkey bags for 100 families.

For some of those years, the Food Pantry was supported, in part, by Hanover's mission budget. For the past several years, Hanover has not been able to provide financial support, although the church provides in-kind support in several ways, such as providing space and utilities, staff time, and many volunteers.

Continued on Page 3

Congregation Elects Elders, Deacons

The Hanover congregation met in its annual meeting on Sunday, Dec. 2, to elect officers and deacons and approve the terms of the pastor's call. [A summary of the 2019 budget appears on Page 5.]

Elected as elders for three-year terms were:

Eloise Downing began attending Hanover in 1998. She served as an Elder 1999-2001 and 2016-18 and as Clerk of Session for 2 years. Eloise has been a choir member for many years and is a long-time member of the Worship Committee. She recently retired from her executive assistant's job at a local law firm.

MaryJo Penna rejoined Hanover in 2007 when she moved back to Wilmington, having earlier joined Hanover in 1989. She has taught Sunday school, served as an elder (1991-93), chaired the Faith in Action committee, and served on a pastoral nominating committee (1999). Her daughter, Emma, was baptized at Hanover.

Jude Quinn grew up in Hanover and was confirmed here in 1968. She led the Greening of the Church several years and is currently the Frames and Art person at our annual Super Sale. She is the treasurer and cookie chair for Troop 405, the Girl Scouts who meet at Hanover. Jude is a proud resident of the Triangle. She has served four terms as a deacon.

Elected as deacons:

Jerri Harmon-Matthews has been a member of Hanover since 1996. She lives in Wilmington and has been professionally caring for children for more than 30 years. She enjoys working as a child-care provider both at Hanover and at the Open Arms Academy. She is the mother of three young adults: Melvin Jr., Porshay, and Sharay. Jerri is quick to say that her favorite thing

Continued on Page 3

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

/,serən 'dipədē/ & /ðə 'houli 'spirit/

In 1754 the English author Horace Walpole recounted for a friend an ancient Persian fairy tale called "The Three Princes of Serendip." In the story a prince and his companions travel around the world and, to quote Walpole, "were always making discoveries, by accidents and sagacity, of things they were not in quest of." And, you guessed it, on that day the word serendipity was born.

Mr. Webster says serendipity is "the occurrence and development of events by chance in a happy or beneficial way." As a long-time devotee of the notion, what I didn't know is that it also comes with a menu of titles: serendipiter, serendipitist, or serendipper!

With my serendipiter's spirit I believe the Hanover Saints have been serendippers since our pilgrimage began in 1772; it is with my serendipitist's heart that I've come to understand and describe all that has taken place at Hanover in the last several months.

Imagine it. A deep desire to love and serve unschooled children leads the Female Harmony Society to found day schools in 1814. That same spirit leads to the initiation of seven other Presbyterian congregations. It leads to continuous re-formations of our buildings to expand for Christian education. It leads to programs and ministries that provide needed resources to all of God's children; most of all light and hope.

That same focus on children leads to the founding of the Jefferson Street Child Center. It gives birth to a Readiness Team, which morphs into a Blueprint Community Team, which creates a revitalization plan for our community—seeking to use Hanover as home base. Suddenly and serendipitously we are living our own fairy tale; call it "The Three Partners of Serendipity."

Then the unthinkable. It all started in a Stewardship Committee meeting when contemplating the question: what would it look like to raise funds for the revitalization of both the community and the congregation? In a silly moment, riffing on a movie clip, we found inspiration in the notion that in the Hanover journey this is our time. On that night a campaign was born.

The Gathering Place Group was formed to lead the charge. Then the Session prophetically offered resources from our reserves toward the vision. All along the Property Committee had been working tirelessly to dream about and make the plans for building renovations. The Finance Committee crunched numbers, the Faith in Action Committee talked about expanding our role as a community-based hub for services and ministries, the Worship Committee worked to integrate the vision with our worship services, and the Jefferson Street Center re-constituted its bylaws and board to prepare for the future.

Now the unimaginable. Through advanced pledges the goal to raise \$100,000 was nearly achieved before the campaign officially began. Additional projects were added, and the goal was raised to \$125,000. As I write

this, we have received \$116,790 in pledges – which does not include the \$25,000 the Session committed from our reserves.

My friends, we are a blessed people. Yes, blessed with the resources to respond to this serendipitous moment; yet even more, blessed with the faith to offer them joyfully in the pursuit of our collective call. Even as we have offered our gifts in this, our time, by the grace of God their benefit is timeless.

Finally, I offer a singular reservation about serendipity. Walpole and Webster talk about events happening by accident and by chance. As followers of Jesus we look to another "S" factor—the Spirit—the Holy one. It is by the power of the Holy Spirit that we are inspired to cast visions and dream dreams, and then granted the power to pursue them by offering our resources and our very selves toward their fulfillment. For disciples of Christ, serendipity is the grace-filled gift from God that affirms the presence and the power of the Holy Spirit to sustain us in the ways of God.

Finally (for real this time), as we begin our Advent pilgrimage in anticipation of the birth of our Savior . . . Has there ever been a more serendipitous moment than on that night and in that manger? The journey to that stable was paved with unexpected miracles and unimaginable events inspired by the Holy Spirit. And so it is has been for us; and so may it be for us in this season, and in all of our seasons to come.

Peace, *Andy*

MUSIC MATTERS

"People, look east – the time is near of the crowning of the year.

"Set every peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.

"People, look and sing today: Love, the Light, is on the way."

As you all know, we began Advent with a wonderful gift—the new Presbyterian hymnal, "Glory to God." It is filled with both our wonderful traditional hymns and new melodies that will surely become classics with time. As we live into Advent, let us sing with a renewed spirit of hope, peace, joy, and love – "Love, the Light, is on the way!"

As another special treat this Advent, we will have four-handed piano music every Sunday in December. A big thank-you to Jane Putscher for sharing her talents with us!

And the highlight of Advent is, as always, the Candlelight Christmas Eve service, with a special 6:30 p.m. musical prelude, and 7 p.m. service, with musicians Augustine Mercante, countertenor; Larry Stomberg, cello; Jen Stomberg, cello, and the Hanover Choir

It is truly "the most wonderful time of the year," and it is . . .

Soli deo Gloria, (only for the glory of God)

Twyla

Congregational Meeting

Continued from Page 1

to do is shop.

Natalie Jobs joined Hanover in 2001. She has served twice as a deacon and as an elder and started the community yoga classes. Natalie rejoined us having almost completed her education in nursing and is grateful for the opportunity to share the kindness and generosity she has always known as a member of the Hanover Family.

Ray Kirkpatrick joined Hanover in 2010 after West Church closed. He served in a variety of leadership positions at West. At Hanover he has served as an elder (2013-15), and currently participates on the Stewardship, Finance, and Worship Committees. Ray retired from AstraZeneca in 2009.

The congregation also elected a representative for the churchwide nominating committee:

Becky Arnold was born into Hanover in 1950 and became a member in 1962. Becky served as a Deacon for two terms. She is a member of the Female Harmony Society and Coordinator of the Food Pantry. She is a member of the Gathering Place Committee that is working to implement our This Is Our Time efforts as Hanover moves into its future.

Food Pantry

Continued from Page 1

The Food Pantry has managed to get along on generous donations from other churches, neighborhood associations, members of Hanover, the Female Harmony Society and the West Legacy fund. It is now at the point, however, that those donations have been reduced due to various reasons.

For the Food Pantry to continue, it needs some financial help. Hopefully, contributions will come as they usually do at this time of year. If you believe that the Food Pantry offers value to our neighborhood, please consider supporting it. Checks should be made out to Hanover, with Food Pantry in the memo line, or you can make a donation through PayPal, with the link provided on the Hanover web page.

Hanover Presbyterian Church • Wilmington, Delaware

2019 Budget, Terms of Call for Pastor Approved

The Finance Committee prepared a draft budget for 2019, along with a recommendation for the Pastor's Terms of Call. Session approved the budget at its November meeting, and the congregation approved the pastor's terms of call at the annual meeting on Dec 2.

The Finance Committee recommended that we continue to combine the pledged and non-pledged contributions for budget purposes, as we have done for the past two years. Our budgeted amount for pledged and non-pledged contributions was increased by 6 percent over the amount budgeted for 2017.

All personnel receive some type of increase in pay and/or benefits for 2019. The salary increase for the pastor is 7 per cent, reflecting the significant milestone of ten years in relationship with Hanover. The church administrator/minister of music is receiving 50 per cent of the cost of health care coverage. The Sexton received a \$2 per hour increase and the hourly rate for child

care was increased to \$14. We continue to offer a retirement savings plan match of up to 4 per cent for staff working 25 hours or more.

The budget summary:

Income:

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Contributions (pledged and non-pledged) | \$205,000 |
| Per Capita giving | 3,800 |
| Loose offering | 5,500 |
| Fundraising | 6,000 |
| Jefferson Street Center | 4,500 |
| Open Arms rent and utilities ... | 48,416 |
| Memorials/misc. | 2,200 |
| Building use | 3,800 |
| Total Income | \$279,216 |

Expenses:

| | |
|---|------------------|
| Pastor | \$104,153 |
| Other personnel | 108,430 |
| Building/Operating | 81,450 |
| Per capita assessment | 5,453 |
| Programs | 16,145 |
| Presbytery, General Assembly, and Pastor Discretionary Fund ... | 4,600 |
| Total Expense | \$320,231 |
| Deficit | (\$ 41,015) |



The Gathering Place was the "place" to be for our third Wednesday (actually second Wednesday due to Thanksgiving) pot luck supper. In addition to our University of Delaware volunteers, we were joined by staff from LAUNCH and Parents As Teachers in serving at least 70 families and neighbors for fried chicken and all sorts of dishes brought to share by several of our "regulars." It was great to see so many families and children sitting down to eat together. After our meal, the families continued on down to the gym where a fun time was had by all. We will definitely be doing more with these folks! —Becky Arnold

The Hanover Herald • December 2018 • Page 3

Your Faith in Action



Hanover UnGifts

UnGifts are available after worship on December 2, 9, 16, & 23

Delaware Interfaith Power & Light



IPL's Windows of Hope makes low cost interior storm windows for older homes saving energy and decreasing utility bills. It provides

employment and training opportunities, improves neighborhoods, fosters interfaith and intergenerational partnerships, engages people in hands-on service projects, and de-creases negative environmental impact.



PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

OUT OF CHAOS, HOPE

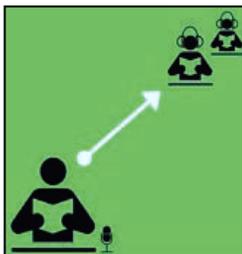
and support to people affected by natural disasters as well as disasters caused by humans.

PDA responds to disasters all over the world, working with local and international partners to provide love



Read In, Read Out

Incarcerated parents read books aloud and record them on tape. The book and the recording are sent to the child. This helps the parents preserve their bond with their child and improves transitions back into the community. The children are given an inexpensive tape recorder with which to listen to the tapes.



DACA College Textbooks

Our donations will enable DACA students at Delaware State University to purchase textbooks. Currently there are 113 DACA students at DSU who have scholarships that cover their tuition and room and board, but the cost of textbooks is not included - and they are a significant expense.



HANOVER FOOD PANTRY

Staffed entirely by volunteers, the Pantry Helps an average of 300 people each month: single adults, multi-generational families, families with children, and the elderly. It is stocked by purchases from local groceries and the Food Bank, and in-kind contributions.



CALENDAR

Recurring Events

- Prayer Circle, 8:30 a.m., Mondays
 K'nittee, 5:30 p.m., Mondays
 Coffee Café, 8 a.m., Tuesdays
 Souper Tuesday, 11 a.m., Tuesdays
 Zumba, 6 p.m., Tuesdays
 Clothing Closet, 9 a.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
- Special Events**
 Girl Scouts, 12:30 p.m., Sundays, Dec. 2, 16, 30
 Advent Soup & Study, 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays, Dec. 5, 12, 19
 Session, 7 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 4
 From Surviving to Thriving, 7 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 6
 Greening of the Church, 10 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 8
 Deacons, 5:45 p.m., Monday, Dec. 10, at the home of Becky and Tim Arnold
 Faith in Action, 5 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 13
 Advent Luncheon, immediately following worship, Sunday, Dec. 16
 Staff meeting, noon, Wednesday., Dec. 19
 Women's Bible Study, 12:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 20
 Office closed: Monday, Dec. 24
 Christmas Eve Service: music at 6:30 p.m., Candlelight service at 7 p.m.
 Church Office closed: Tuesday, Dec. 25—Merry Christmas!
 Church Office closed: Monday, Dec. 31

December Birthdays

- 4 Sarah Davenport
 5 Lynn Gregory
 Alison Moore
 7 Marjorie McNeill
 8 Cory Melvin
 12 Pat Hall
 Della Williams
 Taylor Zistl
 13 Lois Ford
 14 Andy Jacob
 Judy Van Rooyen
 15 Michael Carty
 20 Diane Dunham
 22 Peg Showalter
 29 Grant Evitts
 Bea Wilson

It's Advent, Charlie Brown!

During Advent, Discipleship classes will be exploring HOPE, PEACE, JOY, and LOVE in and through community; and what better mentors of living in community than the Peanuts gang created by Charles Schultz! The antics of Charlie Brown, Lucy, Linus, Snoopy and others will illuminate our discussions during our Wednesday Advent suppers on Dec. 5, 12, and 19 at 5:30 p.m.



- Dec. 5 - PEACE**
Dec. 12 - JOY
Dec. 19 - LOVE

Join us on Wednesdays for a light supper of soup and bread and then discussion. Soup, bread, and dessert providers are an integral part of making our Advent series a satisfying time of nourishment for our bodies as well as our spirits. To volunteer to help with a part of one of these meals, please contact Nancy Long at 893-3682 or nlongssg@gmail.com.

Poinsettias for the Sanctuary

If you wish to honor loved ones by donating poinsettias, for display on Christmas Eve, 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 Church (\$10 per plant)
3. Mail form and check to:

Sue Baker
 110 Southwick Drive
 Wilmington, DE 19810

After Christmas Eve 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, Dec. 9



Hanover Street Presbyterian Church
 1801 N. Jefferson Street
 Wilmington, DE 19802
 (302) 658-5114
 Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 Wilmington, DE
 Permit #45



'The Blessings Kept on Coming'

Turkey bags packed and picked up! Thanks to many of our Discipleship class members, we were able to make short work of packing 100 bags filled with food for our Thanksgiving bags [photo at left]. On Monday afternoon, Nov. 19 the bags were picked up along with a turkey by people from our neighborhood and beyond. Those 100 bags and turkeys went to feed about 600 people on Thanksgiving Day and made for many happy families. Thanks to all who donated food and who helped fill the bags and then to those who helped distribute them on Monday afternoon. Thanks also to the BTL Foundation for their volunteers and for sharing the cost of the meals with our Food Pantry.

Our portion of the cost was covered by the proceeds from our hot dog cart sales this summer. All in all, we raised almost \$2,000 this year. Thanks to our many supporters who may have eaten their quota of hot dogs for the year, and can now join us for Souper Tuesdays instead.

And the blessings kept on coming! At 8 am. Monday morning, when the Prayer Circle members arrived at church, they found 100 pies left at the door! As it turns out they were from Giant. A friend of the Food Pantry who works in the bakery left them there as the store had an over-run. We gave them out with the bags on Monday afternoon. Then on Sunday, Nov. 25, we got a call from Sav-A-Lot in Claymont that they had food for pickup. When we arrived, there were 40 bags of groceries to bring back to the Food Pantry. Our shelves were filled once more. It really is true that one never knows where or when surprises will happen, but this Thanksgiving, we certainly were "surprised by joy!" — *Becky Arnold*