

THE HANOVER HERALD

A newsletter for the people
of Hanover Presbyterian Church,
Wilmington, Delaware
January 2019

This Is Our Time!

In November, we watched Pastor Andy Jacob climb onto a platform on the top of some pretty high scaffolding in Hanover's sanctuary. Covering the scaffolding were signs noting important years of Hanover's history, beginning with 1772, to illustrate the foundation of decades of dedicated service from Hanover members. Pastor Andy shared another illustration through 2 Chronicles 6:12-17, which tells the story of King Solomon, who had a bronze platform set in the court of the temple he built to glorify God and led the assembly of Israel in a prayer of dedication. He built the temple on a foundation left by his father, King David.

Near the top of Hanover's platform, above the signs from 1772 to 2018, was the sign This Is Our Time—the time when Hanover members and friends, in 2018 and beyond, build on the foundation laid by others through the This Is Our Time capital campaign. The news about the campaign is extraordinary! As of January 2019, we have pledges to the capital campaign totaling \$127,440. Of those pledges, we have \$59,327 in hand. The pledges exceed our goal of \$125,000 and this does not include the commitment of \$25,000 from reserves made by the Session.

If any of you are thinking that this positive news means my contribution is not needed, think again. While the Jefferson Street Center continues to raise funds through foundation grants, we do not yet know how much money we will receive. The property needs in the Hanover "temple" are great and the costs to respond to all of those needs far exceeds our capital campaign goal. No pledge, no gift is too small to help with this effort.

As Andy said in his sermon on Nov. 18, the Hanover "temple" glorifies God, but it does so ". . . by opening its doors and offering the radical hospitality and love of our Christ to all of God's children." Our gifts will build on a foundation laid for us and will keep the foundation strong in the days ahead, as we continue to offer necessary resources, love and hope to those in need.—*The Gathering Place Group*

Enlarged JSC Board Welcomes New Members

On Dec. 11, the "old" Jefferson Street Center board hosted a celebration for the old board, the new JSC board, the Washington Heights Blueprint Community Team (WHBC), Hanover's Gathering Place Group, and some of the members of Hanover's Session. This was a celebration of an exciting new step toward sustainability and a positive partnership in 2019 and beyond.

In February 2017 the WHBC presented its Neighborhood Revitalization Plan at a symposium held in the Chase Center on the

Riverfront. The Jefferson Street Center and Hanover Church figure prominently as "anchor" institutions for the community revitalization initiative. In a significant step toward implementation of the revitalization plan, a nominating committee was formed in 2018 from members of JSC, the Blueprint team, and Hanover to develop and grow the JSC board.

We are thrilled to share the results of the nomination process. The new JSC board includes: Romain Alex- *Continued on Page 3*

Black History Month Has 4 Guest Speakers

Hanover will again celebrate Black History Month with special events and speakers. The schedule:

Saturday, Feb. 2: Freedom Forum at 9 a.m., with coffee and morning refreshments before a presentation of *Off*, a one-man play by Andre Jones, with a discussion to follow.

Feb. 3: Sunday worship with guest speaker U.S. Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester, the first woman and first black Delawarean to represent our state in Congress.



Feb. 10: Sunday worship with a guest speaker still to be named.

Feb. 17: Sunday worship with the Rev. Charles Gilmore, who was here with us last November. After the service the annual Soul Food Luncheon at 12:30 p.m.

Feb. 24: Sunday worship with guest Pastor Derrick Knox from Covenant Heritage Bible Church. And in the afternoon our Gospel Vespers at 4 p.m. Guest artists include: Brian Gray, Michael Hunter, The Melodic Dancers, countertenor Gus Mercante, Toni Watson and guests, some four-handed piano music, and more to come!

MLK Celebration

The 9th Ward Interfaith Coalition MLK celebration will be Monday, Jan. 21, at 7 p.m. at Peninsula-McCabe United Methodist Church, 2200 Baynard Boulevard. A free will offering will be taken to support the food ministries of the houses of worship in the 9th Ward.

Please join us for an interfaith celebration through music, readings, and thoughts from our youth on the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Epiphany Then, Epiphany Now

... and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. —Matthew 2:9

Epiphany: Year 1

There's a star over a house. In the house is a mother with her child. At the door are three weary travelers who have come halfway around what was then known to be the world. They are bearing precious gifts with the intent of presenting them in honor of the child. Likely stunned by the event, the mother accepts the gifts with great gratitude and deep humility. And just as quickly as they had arrived, having achieved their objective, they depart. As a result of the transformative encounter, however, they return home by another road.

The first Epiphany was not about the gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. It was about what the gifts represented. The worldly value of these precious gifts symbolized the spiritual value of the precious gift of the child. On that day the Magi, through their gifts, proclaimed for the world the gift of God's love for all of God's children.

Epiphany: Year 2019

There is a star over a house of worship. In the house is a community of people from all walks of life, and their children, and their children's children. At the door are weary travelers who have come seeking solace, support, and solidarity. Moved and overwhelmed by the need, the people in the house decide to alter their house to more fully welcome them. They challenged themselves to gather the resources for this transformation, and with gratitude and humility are stunned by the results.

In this Herald you will read of the inspiring news about our "This Is Our Time Campaign;" that we have

surpassed our goal of raising \$125,000 in pledges! Praise God for the overwhelming joy in this news, and for all of the light it will produce.

The results of our Epiphany campaign are not about the riches and dollars. They signify what these gifts represent. They symbolize our deep collective commitment to offer our blessings in response to the needs of the world. Through our gifts, we are proclaiming for the world the gift of God's love for all of God's children.

In the coming year we will break bread and break ground. We will share the pitcher of promise and the cup of hope. We will immerse ourselves in covenantal waters and offer the sustenance they provide to others. May God bless the star under which we serve; that it would continue to lead travelers to meet the Christ.

Peace, *Andy*

New Directories

To make sure that we have the best possible information, there will be three current directories posted at the back of the church and one in the Church School Hall under the main bulletin board for the month of Jan.. Please check your information and make sure that it is current. If you want to add information (such as cell phone number), please write it to the side of your name. You only have to mark one directory. Then we will compile all of the updates, and new directories will be available on the first Sunday of February.

Want a Blue Hymnal?

During the month of Jan., we have the blue Presbyterian Hymnal set out in the Church School Hall. Please feel free to take any and all that you would like—check the labels for dedications—you might see someone you know! If you know of anyone who would like to get more than just a few, please let the church office know—we would love for people to be able to get use from them.

We had an Advent filled with exciting four-handed piano music – thank you so much, Jane Putscher!

Our Christmas Eve service was beautiful, and we especially thank our devoted choir members: Sue Baker, Heather Brown, Russ Buckley, Julie Davis, Alexandra Evitts, Chris Garrett, Amy Harris, Dave Harris, Jeff Long, Katie Leep, Doris Loper, Andy Moore, Jane Putscher, Peg Showalter, Bill Tudor, Lorie Tudor, Stephen Willis. We also thank our guest musicians: Gus Mercante, countertenor, Jennifer and Larry Stomberg, cello.

A special Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration service is being held on Monday, Jan. 21, 7 p.m. at Peninsula-McCabe United Methodist Church. Our choir will be singing on their own and also as part of the Interfaith Choir, and some of our youth will be presenting their thoughts on this question: "What does Dr. King's dream mean to you today?" Please join us for a wonderful evening of true community.

And, coming up in February is our annual Black History Month celebration – lots of wonderful spirituals, gospel songs, four-handed piano pieces, guest musicians, Gospel Vespers – it is always exciting and inspiring!

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

Sweet Success

Part fellowship over a cup of tea, part fundraiser for the work of the Female Harmony Society, the annual FHS tea offers those who attend the chance to catch up with friends and the opportunity to be part of the ongoing work of the society through their donation. This year was no exception.

Thanks to the generous donation of two handmade quilts which were raffled at the event, the FHS raised \$2,025 dollars. In addition, memorial gifts of \$1,100 were given in honor of Kay Twing, who was named *historian emerita* at the event

Thank you to all who attended and participated in the raffles!

JSC Board Enlarges

Continued from Page 1

ander, member of Hanover and policy advisor in the Delaware governor's office; Diane Coniglio Bohner, M.D., medical director for Patient and Family Centered Care at Christiana Care; Candice Brown, Blueprint team member and early childhood educator; Ellen Casson, Hanover, Blueprint team, former JSC board and retired chief U.S. probation officer; William Chapman, former Family Court judge and currently senior counsel in a Wilmington law firm; Roger Hesketh, director of community revitalization for the U.D. Center for Community Research and Service; Rev. Andy Jacob, Hanover's pastor; Leah Kacanda, Blueprint team and planner for the city of Wilmington; Cynthia Kelsey, Blueprint team, former JSC board, and retired deputy attorney general; Kimberly Nelson, Blueprint team member and parent educator; Willie Patrick, director of emergency management for the city of Wilmington; Joel Schiller, senior V.P. for Artisans' Bank; and Lorie Tudor, Hanover member, former JSC board and retired social worker for the State of Delaware.

Great gratitude is extended to former JSC board members who will not be serving on the new board: Tim Arnold, Maggie Alexander, Christine Demsey, Ruth Howell, and Pam McGill. Without them, JSC would not have been able to sustain its mission and maintain its non-profit status. For many years, the JSC board focused on supporting First Step Children's Center and providing affordable, quality child care for families. Each board member was given a copy of Marion Wright Edelman's book *I Can Make A Difference* to recognize their tireless work to make a positive difference in the lives of children and their families.

Annual Reports

It's that time of year again – we are collecting articles for our 2018 Annual Report. Please submit your articles to the church office at: churchadmin@hanoverchurch.org by Thursday, Jan. 31.

Monday Night Study: 'Lost Christianities'

"Lost Christianities" is an 11-week study led by Rev. John Holden that considers the varieties of belief and practice in the early days of Christianity, before the church had decided what was theologically acceptable and determined which books should be included in its canon of Scripture. Part of the struggle over belief and practice in the early church was over what could be legitimately accepted as "Christian" and what should be condemned as "heresy."

This course considers the struggle for orthodoxy (that is, right belief) and the attempt to label, spurn, and overthrow heresy (that is, false belief). In particular, it tries to understand on their own terms Christians who were later deemed heretical and to explore the writings that were available and could be appealed to in support of their views.

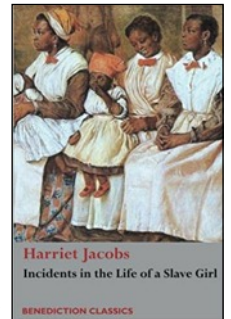
This class meets on the second, third, and fourth Mondays of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Education Wing. The first session is on Jan. 14. It is a rigorous study; it is open to all interested persons.

The text book is *The Complete Gospels* (Robert J. Miller, editor) supplemented by materials online from earlychristianwritings.com.

A Book for Black History Month

Leading into Black History month, we will be discussing the book *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* after worship on Jan. 27. The book is an autobiographical account written by Harriet Jacobs, who was a slave who triumphed not only by luck but by careful planning and daring deceit. She was not an ordinary slave girl, and her is not an ordinary account of the miseries of slavery.

Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl is probably the most important and most widely read female slave narrative, and relates the subtle humiliations in as well as the simple brutality of slave life, particularly in the case of enslaved women and children.



Clothing Closet Helps Welcome Refugees

Jewish Family Services of Delaware has a long history of aiding refugees and immigrants from around the world make a successful transition to a new life in the United States. Hanover is one of many partners working with JFS in support of this effort. JFS uses space at Hanover to provide tutoring for families learning English. In addition, several families have been helped by the Hanover clothing closet.

The clothing closet has provided clothing to approximately seven families over the past two years and most of them arrived with nothing but what they were wearing.

Some have been from Iraq and others from Africa. In October, we served a family of 10 and a family of 5 from war-torn Congo. The family of 10 was forced to live in Tanzania and the family of 5 was living in Kenya waiting years for an opportu-

nity to come to the United States. We are grateful to be a part of offering hospitality and clothing and supporting the important work of Jewish Family Services.

January Birthdays

- 1 Gregory Harris
- 7 Christina Poirier
David Simpson
- 8 Stephanie Cornell
Bernice Van Rooyen
- 14 Kylie Frazer
- 15 Aysha Gregory
- 16 Joshua Showalter
- 18 Marjorie Pulliam
Linda Zankowsky
- 21 Alice Cornelius
- 23 Rochelle Ransom
- 25 Chase Williams
- 26 Sebastian Gross
- 27 Christine Garrett
Jeff Long
- 31 Patrick Evans

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

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 and 6:30 p.m., Thursdays
Clothing Closet, 9 a.m., Wednesdays
Bible Study, 5:30 p.m., Wednesdays
Choir, 7 p.m., Wednesdays
Food Pantry, 8 a.m., Thursdays
Bridge Club, 7 p.m., Thursdays
Yoga, 6:15 p.m., Fridays

Special Events

Worship Committee, 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 8
Faith in Action, 5 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 10
Undecorate church, 10 a.m., Saturday, Jan. 12
Invitational Committee, 5:30 p.m., Monday, Jan. 14
Stewardship meeting, 7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 14
New Elder Training, 5:30 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 15
Staff meeting, noon, Wednesday, Jan. 16
Pasta Dinner, 5 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 16
Women's Bible Study, 12:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 17
Elders & Deacons retreat, 9 a.m.-noon, Saturday, Jan. 19
Church Office closed, Monday, Jan. 21
Interfaith MLK Celebration, 7 p.m., Monday, Jan. 21

Food Pantry Update

Thank you so much to all who contributed to the Food Pantry in December and throughout the year. We are now in a more comfortable position to start off the New Year. It's a funny thing about this ministry at Hanover, just when things look pretty bleak, something strikes a spark and things turn around and we are back in business. Thanks to all you "sparks" out there!

This will be in the annual report, but just to give you an idea of where your money goes—we served 1,921 families representing 3,928 individuals last year. Most monetary donations go to purchasing fresh produce which is so greatly appreciated by our guests. We are open 52 weeks of the year and that says a lot for the dedication of our volunteers. So, as long the members of Hanover feel that this is a worthwhile endeavor, it would appear that we will keep on keeping on!

Speaking of food ministries, our Souper Tuesdays are going well. We have a faithful core group that comes together around noon in the Gathering Place for warm soup, a satisfying sandwich plus great conversations! Feel free to join in any Tuesday you are near the church and are hungry for good food and even better, the camaraderie of friends and future friends!

Our Third Wednesday suppers are going strong as well. Our menu has broadened from just spaghetti, too. From fried chicken in November to lasagna and baked penne other months, we are changing it up, so to speak. We continue to have volunteers from the University of Delaware join us. The energy and friendliness they bring to our guests is just wonderful. Please feel free to join in the fun any third Wednesday throughout the year. We start at 5:30 p.m. and go on until the food runs out. (Better get there on the early side!)