

THE HANOVER HERALD

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

Hanover Miracle: Join a Trip to African American Museum



CELEBRATE
Black History Month
at Hanover February 2019

3 Special Events
Feb. 2/9 a.m.
The Freedom Forum,
with "Off," a one-man
play by Andre Jones
Feb. 17/12:30 p.m.
Soul Food Luncheon,
now in its 26th year
Feb. 24/4 p.m.
The always-inspiring
Gospel Vespers

**4 Special
Worship Leaders**
Feb. 3/11 a.m.
U.S. Rep. Lisa
Blunt Rochester
Feb. 10/11 a.m.
Eugene Young and
Logan Herring
Feb. 17/11 a.m.
The Rev. Charles
Gilmore
Feb. 24/11 a.m.
The Rev. Derrick Knox

It was in October that the planning group for our annual Black History Month first dreamed of offering an inspiring road trip to the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington. The museum became an instant treasure; the down side is that getting tickets is nothing short of a miracle. Well, just before the Herald deadline we got a miracle!

With great gratitude to U.S. Rep. Lisa Blunt Rochester and her staff, we have received 40 tickets for the museum. If you are interested in attending, here are the details:

On Saturday, Feb. 9, we will caravan to Washington. We have rented three 12-passenger vans for the trip. We will reserve seats for the first 40 people who contact the church office (658-5114). Reservations from Hanover folks will be taken up through Wednesday, Feb. 6, after which we will open the process to the larger community.

All who will be going must be at the church at 8 a.m. The museum opens at 10 a.m. and closes at 5:30, so, God willing and traffic allowing, we'll return by early evening.

As the Smithsonian is a national museum there is no charge for the tickets, and the church will pay for the vans. You need only bring either money for your meals, or a brown bag lunch and snacks for the ride.

With great gratitude for this great gift, may God bless us with a day of inspiration, fellowship, and renewed commitment to work for justice and peace.

Grants Are Coming In for Capital Improvements

The Hanover Gathering Place Group and Jefferson Street Center, Inc. (JSC), in partnership with the Washington Heights Blueprint Community team, are fully engaged in raising funds through foundation grants to support capital improvements at Hanover, the "community hub" in the WHBC revitalization plan. Four renovation projects will build the capacity of the space for increased use, comfort and safety. These include:

- Renovations to the Gathering Place kitchen.
- Installation of air conditioning in the Gathering Place (air conditioning in the sanctuary and Church School Hall will be paid for by Hanover).
- Construction of handicapped accessible restrooms, upgrades to the Food Pantry, and a new janitor's closet in the Gathering Place.
- Improvements to the gym, including installation of a sprinkler system and new wall mats.

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FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

In honor and in anticipation of Black History Month. With deep aspirations that we would live into our foundational creeds and fundamental commitments as a nation. To inspire hope in contrast to the divisive and destructive dialogues that dominate these days. This month I offer this space to a voice more powerful, and more relevant than ever, the poet Langston Hughes.

I, Too

I, too, sing America.

I am the darker brother.
They send me to eat in the kitchen
When company comes,
But I laugh,
And eat well,
And grow strong.

Tomorrow, Ill be at the table
When company comes.
Nobody'll dare
Say to me,
"Eat in the kitchen,"
Then.

Besides,
They'll see how beautiful I am
And be ashamed –

I, too, am America.

May God lead us to see beyond borders, boundaries, and walls; to dream beyond race, class, and culture; and deliver us to the day when we see the beauty in every child of God. Then, may God bless us with the gift of a tomorrow in which we all commune at the same table.

Peace,
Andy

Caring for Creation

Stay tuned for weekly messages in the Sunday bulletin from Faith in Action on ways to help conserve our natural resources. For more information about what is being done and what you can do, go to: www.creationjustice.org.

MUSIC MATTERS

Our Black History Month celebration is here, and it's filled with lots of wonderful music: spirituals, gospel songs, four-handed piano pieces, guest musicians, Gospel Vespers — it is always exciting and inspiring. Please check out our Black History Month article and flyers that are around the church and help us spread the word!

As a tribute to one of the great gospel hymns, "Precious Lord, Take My Hand," I offer for you the telling of how it came to Thomas Dorsey, who many consider the father of black gospel music. This is told in his own words in a taped interview in 1977.

"The year was 1942. My wife, Nettie, was about to bear our first child. I was called to St. Louis to sing in a revival. I wondered if I should go because of my wife's condition. She persuaded me that I should go ahead, so I, alone in my Model A, drove to St. Louis. During the first night of the meetings, a lad brought a telegram to me while I was still on the platform. It was horrible news. It was a message that my wife had died giving birth to our son. I rushed to a phone while the people were still singing and found that the message was true. Mr. Gus Evans drove me back to Chicago that night. When I arrived, I found that the wonderful baby boy was seemingly fine, and yet, that night he also

died. I buried my wife and little son in the same casket.

"I became very despondent and filled with grief. A few days later I visited with my good friend, Professor Frye. We walked around the campus of Annie Malone's Poro College for a while and then went into one of the music rooms. I sat down at a piano and began to improvise on the keyboard. Suddenly, I found myself playing a particular melody that I hadn't played before that time. (It was an adaptation of George N. Allen's melody used with the old hymn, 'Must Jesus Bear the Cross Alone?') As I played, I began to say, 'Blessed Lord, blessed Lord, blessed Lord.' My friend walked over to me and said, 'Why don't you make that precious Lord?' I then began to sing, 'Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, help me stand.'

"When I finished the song, we began to use it and it has been going ever since. I have gotten letters from people all over the world. It was a great tragedy, but we got the message to the world."

The song has since been translated into more than 30 languages and is known around the world. May all of our songs be translated into a universal language of love and praise.

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

Twyla

Book Group Announces Selections for 2019

The Hanover book discussion group will be reading the following books in the coming months:

- **Feb. 24:** *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* by Harriet Ann Jacobs. This is a personal account written by a woman who had been a slave. The book is an autobiography that relates the subtle humiliations and simple brutality of slave life, particularly in the case of enslaved women and children. It is probably the most important and most widely read female slave narrative. Copies are available.

- **March 24:** *Acts of Faith* by Eboo Patel relates the author's experience of growing up Muslim in America

and coming to believe in religious pluralism. He is now a prominent faith leader in the United States. This hopeful and moving story shows how world-changing an interfaith youth movement can be.

- **May 19:** *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson, a novel written in verse that portrays the author's childhood as an African American growing up in the 1960s in South Carolina and New York.

- **Oct. 20:** *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas is about a fatal shooting of girl's best friend by the police. It has also been made into a movie, and we plan to provide a chance to view it.

Grants Received, Sought

Continued from Page 1

One of the first projects is the renovation of the Hanover gym. Building on a 2017 grant of \$5,000 from the FHLBank of Pittsburgh, JSC applied for and received nearly \$11,000 from a Neighborhood Building Blocks grant to begin renovations. We also received \$2,000 from Artisans' Savings Bank and \$3,000 from the University of Delaware, in 2017. Now in 2018, we are pleased to report a grant of over \$23,000 from FHLBank of Pittsburgh has been received, and we will be receiving over \$6,000 from the university. The funds will provide support in the form of consultation, community outreach, insurance and fiscal oversight tools for JSC, along with the renovation.

Four foundation grant requests were submitted for funds to support renovations in the Gathering Place. Three of the four totaled \$60,000 in funds requested and the good news is we received \$40,000. One other grant request for \$15,000 was denied, but we have been invited to reapply in 2019. Two additional foundation grant requests will be submitted in the spring for larger levels of funding. At the same time, we are engaged in the "This Is Our Time" campaign at Hanover to raise additional funds to help with improvements in the Gathering Place and elsewhere in the church.

Once the kitchen renovations are completed and the air conditioning and new bathrooms installed, we anticipate the Gathering Place will be used even more by our Hanover family and the community. Not only will the clothing closet and food pantry continue, as will community and church dinners and meetings, but the Gathering Place could serve as a space for tutoring, mentoring, and other activities, in partnership with neighborhood associations and others. We envision a place where people can stop by for coffee and a muffin in the morning or a snack and a sandwich at lunchtime. Meetings will take place and relationships will grow between individuals and families in the neighborhoods and within the Hanover family.

Here's a Way to Invest in Hanover Youth

We are excited to have at least five youth who are attending church youth conferences this summer—so far, our three high schoolers are heading to Purdue for the Youth Triennium, and two or more of our middle schoolers have the opportunity to head down to Massanetta to attend their first Middle School Conference.

Thank you for your support of various fundraisers that have already been held. A special "thank you" to the K'nittee for selling their beautiful creations to go towards the Purdue trip!

We are appreciative that New Castle Presbytery is providing a bus for travel to the Triennium, but registration for these opportunities is steep, so we are asking for your support in helping families defray the cost of sending their children to these faith-forming experiences. Several families have *two* kids who could be heading to conferences this summer.

The Discipleship Team is offering stock certificates that you can purchase to Invest in Our Youth. Each certificate costs \$10, and is guaranteed to increase in value for the life of our youth. After the conferences, the youth will offer a Shareholders event to pay a dividend for your investment, sharing some of their experiences in word and pictures. The youth will offer stock certificates for sale beginning in early March.

FINANCE AND PROPERTY NEWS

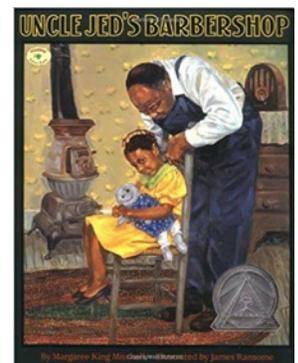
At the January 2019 Session meeting, the treasurer's report through the end of November 2018 (92 percent of the year) was reviewed and approved. Our combined pledged and unpledged regular income totaled \$179,047, which is 92 percent of the budget goal for the year, which continues to be good news for the year-end outlook. All the numbers have not been fully reconciled with the bank statements, as of this writing, so the full year-end figures will be reported in the next Herald.

The hoped-for result of ending the year with a surplus or even a balanced budget is not going to happen for 2018. We had some necessary expenses related to property needs that took us about \$15,000 over budget in that area. Early in 2018, we needed some repairs to the slate roof (approximately \$3,800). Then there were some repairs to the burner for the steam boiler and two steam zone valves were replaced for approximately \$9,000. We also had an unexpected drain clog from toilet issues and a failed sump pump for another \$1,000. On the Baynard Boulevard side of the church, we had some long overdue tree work done. A large dead sweet gum tree was removed. We also had the remaining

healthy sweet gums trimmed and plan to treat them with a retardant to reduce the production of the gum balls, which are a hazard on the sidewalks. We also had a tree removed that was causing lots of issues with the church roof drains and the sidewalk. New trees have been planted that will not cause as many maintenance issues and will improve the appearance of the property.—Ellen Casson

Teach Us to Dream . . .

Discipleship's Community Sunday is Feb. 3 at 9:30 in the Church School Hall. As Hanover begins our Black History month celebrations, Community Sunday will present an intergenerational gathering with Bible Study, story-telling and community-building activities based on the children's book *Uncle Jed's Barbershop* by Margaret King Mitchell.



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CALENDAR

Recurring Events

Prayer Circle, 8:30 a.m., Mondays
 K'nittee, 5:30 p.m., Mondays
 P-R Study Group, 7:30 p.m., all
 Mondays except first
 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., Wednes-
 days
 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

Finance meeting, 7 p.m., Thurs-
 day, Feb. 1
 Freedom Forum, 9 a.m., Saturday,
 Feb. 2
 Worship: Guest speaker: Lisa Blunt
 Rochester, 11 a.m., Sunday, Feb.
 3
 Deacons' meeting, 5:45 p.m., Mon-
 day, Feb. 4
 From Striving to Thriving, 7 p.m.,
 Thursday, Feb. 7
 Worship: Guest speakers: Eugene
 Young & Logan Herring, 11 a.m.,
 Sunday, Feb. 10
 Girl Scouts, 12:30 p.m., Sunday,
 Feb. 10

Invitational team, 5:30 p.m., Mon-
 day, Feb. 11
 Worship meeting, 1:30 p.m.
 Wednesday, Feb. 12
 Faith in Action, 5:30 p.m., Thurs-
 day, Feb. 14
 Theology on Tap, 7 p.m., Thursday,
 Feb. 14
 Worship: Guest speaker: Rev.
 Charles Gilmore, 11 a.m., Sun-
 day, Feb. 17
 Soul Food Luncheon, 12 p.m., Sun-
 day, Feb. 17
 Session meeting, 7 p.m., Tuesday,
 Feb. 19
 Staff meeting, noon, Wednesday,
 Feb. 20
 Pasta Dinner, 5:30 p.m., Wednes-
 day, Feb. 20
 Women's Bible Study, 12:30 p.m.,
 Thursday, Feb. 21
 March Herald article deadline, Fri-
 day, Feb. 22
 Worship: Guest speaker: Rev. Der-
 rick Knox, 11 a.m., Sunday, Feb.
 24
 Book Group Study, 12:30 p.m.,
 Sunday, Feb. 24
 Girl Scouts, 12:30 p.m., Sunday,
 Feb. 24
 Gospel Vespers, 4 p.m., Sunday,
 Feb. 24
 Stewardship meeting, 7 p.m., Mon-
 day, Feb. 25

February Birthdays

1 Lee Buckley
 Sean Simpson
 3 Nancy Long
 Jurgens Van Rooyen
 4 Hope Alexander
 Twyla Evitts
 6 Nathaniel Arnold
 Andrew Moore
 7 Tracey Lewis
 8 Doris Murphy
 9 Andrew Long
 15 Gabrielle Murphy
 16 Jean Gross
 Sean Howard
 17 Maggie Alexander
 Jacob Arnold
 Lynn Edwards
 21 Thomas Davis
 Michael Kirylik
 22 Nancy B. Palmer
 24 Melvin Matthews, Jr.
 Irene Turner
 25 Stuart Bailey
 26 Chris Simmons
 Larry Smith

Bible Study Readings

Feb. 3 and 6: Unconventional:
 Luke 10:38-41
 Feb. 10 and 13: Telling Stories:
 Matthew 13, Mark 4:1-34, Luke 15
 Feb. 17 and 20: The Best Sermon
 Ever: Matthew 5-7 and Luke 6:17-49
 Feb. 24 and 27: Jesus and Two
 Women: John 4:1-42 and 8:1-11