

# THE HANOVER HERALD

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

## Food Pantry Facing A Shrinking Larder

The Food Pantry has been in operation for more than 30 years. During that time we have had ups and downs and sometimes come close to running out of funds. As it happens, we find ourselves in one of those times now.

Due to decreased donations from previous sources (only because they too are having a tough time with the availability of their disposable income) we find that our funds are dwindling, while the need for emergency food is increasing.

In 2018 we served 1,921 households which was an increase of 240 families over 2017. In total we served 3,928 individuals. We are open 52 weeks of the year, we serve a hot breakfast each week to our cli-

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## A Very Special Celebration

Do you remember where you were on April 6, 1944? Likely it's safe to say that even if you were living it would be unlikely you would remember where you were. But we do know someone who can tell you exactly where she was that day. She was at Hanover Presbyterian Church. She remembers because it was the day she became a member of the congregation. Yes, we have a 75-year member in our midst!

On Sunday, Sept. 15, immediately after worship, there will be a very special fellowship time. We will gather in the Church School Hall and celebrate with Ruth Howell her 75 years of membership at Hanover. Even as we gather to acknowledge Ruth, we can each rejoice in the gifts of community and commitment, belonging and membership, and faith and service that we share. See you there!

## A Letter About the Next Super Sale

Dear Hanover Members, Friends, and Neighbors,

What is one of the best things that happens during the year at Hanover? Well, lots of us think it is the annual Super Sale! There are so many reasons why it is a wonderful annual event, not the least of which is the fun we have working together and the connections we make with friends and neighbors in the community.

What if we don't have a Super Sale in 2020, but we work really hard to get our improvements and renovations done, and have the biggest, best Super Sale ever in 2021? Realizing what a large decision this would be, we quickly met with Pastor Andy, and then we shared our thinking with our elders at the next Session meeting. The Session members discussed this at some length and voted to support our request to take a one-year sabbatical from Super Sale.

Now, before you think we are taking a vacation, we want you to know we are planning to be fully absorbed in the renovations that will be taking place in the downstairs Gathering Place and kitchen. The construction to come will greatly impact the food pantry and clothing closet and other activities in the Gathering Place. At the same time, there will be air conditioning installed for the sanctuary, the Gathering Place, the Church School Hall and the gym. These renovations are a tribute to all of you and the successful "This Is Our Time" campaign, and also to the hard work we have been doing in partnership with Jefferson Street Center, to raise money through foundation grants.

So, let's look forward to a big celebration and a big Super Sale in 2021, when the construction is over. We may also come up with some ideas for a smaller fundraising activity in 2020 and there are plans for another Block Party with JSC next summer. Share your thoughts and ideas with us, and once again, thank you for the many ways you support Hanover and the annual Super Sale. — Ellen, Becky and Ruth



*If you spend much time in the Gathering Place around the kitchen, you will notice large "bumps" in the concrete floor, some large enough to be tripping hazards. There have been a few theories about the cause, like water, tree roots, rocks or some creature trying to escape. We called in Ground Penetrating Radar Systems to scan below the floor, indicating air pockets, which confirmed a theory that the concrete poured in the 1920s contained lots of ash, which tends to heave. Then we called in a contractor who did a core drilling [left]. That confirmed there are no giant rocks pushing up the floor and no Godzilla hiding under the food pantry! This is better news than some of the other possibilities, as far as the cost to fix the floor, which will be done as part of the Gathering Place plan.*

## FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

Can you imagine it? After Peter lets you through the pearly gates to heaven you meet God, and the creator, redeemer, and sustainer of all things is wearing a nametag! As if you wouldn't recognize God?! Why would God even consider wearing a nametag?

Well, first of all, why would God assume that everyone entering the heavenly realm would recognize the One who created all that is? For every 10 believers there are 12 images of God. So, in the grandest act of humility and hospitality, God is willing to self-identify so that those who enter the heavenly realm will recognize their deity. God does this so that we will feel valued, welcomed, and comforted.

Entering a new place is difficult, if not daunting. Especially those who are entering a church for the first time. It seems that everyone knows everyone else. And I don't know anyone.

Now, I've been here for three Sundays in a row. The people are very friendly and welcoming and seem to recognize and remember me. I'm so intrigued and interested, and yet I'm so embarrassed. I enjoy the fellowship time after worship, but I feel so bad because people remember my name, but I've met so many wonderful people; so many that I can't remember their names.

Nametags. They are awkward and uncomfortable; perhaps even annoying. I know who I am. Virtually everyone here today knows who I am. Why do I need to wear a nametag?

For the visitor. For the guest. For those who do not know you.

Nametags are not about us. They are about those who might become one of us.

Hospitality is the first of the three legs of our mission and mantra: hospitality, diversity and justice. Hospitality is all about making folks feel welcome, comfortable, and included. To offer hospitality is to say to someone "I am interested in you,"

"we value your presence," and "you are welcome here."

In recent meetings of both the Worship Committee and the Invitational Team the use of nametags has come up. In both

instances the importance of wearing our nametags was the theme. There was testimony from folks who have recently come to Hanover about how helpful it is for visitors when we wear our nametags. In short, there are few things more hospitable than simply identifying ourselves to others.

On behalf of those committees I write with the plea for us all to wear our nametags. If you do not have one, be in touch with Twyla, our church administrator, and she will whip you one up in a flash. And if you do have one, please, please, as uncomfortable as it may be for you, wear it on Sundays in worship and fellowship. Know that in doing so you are offering a warm and personal welcome to anyone who may be seeking a church home that not only recognizes them, but values their presence.

May God bless our every effort to open ourselves to the presence of others, and to provide a welcome befitting of our Christ. —Peace, *Andy*



## MUSIC MATTERS

The fall is here, and we are gearing up for a great season! A warm thank you to the musicians who shared their talents with us over the summer months. We appreciate your dedication to all of our services.

Have you thought about singing with the choir? We begin rehearsing on Wednesday, Sept. 4, at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome – you don't have to be able to read music – all you need is a willingness to sing! We sing a variety of styles – traditional, classical, gospel, spirituals, ethnic world songs, and contemporary. Please talk to me or to any choir member if you have any questions. We'd love to have you join us.

**Jeremiah's Coffee House, Saturday, Sept. 21, 5:30-7:30 p.m.** It's an evening of good food, friends, and relaxed artistic fun – it's an open mic evening, so if you want to sing, play an instrument, read a poem, tell a story, show a craft – anything goes! Please talk to George Turner or me to get on the roster, or you can just show up and share!

**Peace Week Workshop and Program, Sunday, Sept. 22, 2-5 p.m.** Join us for an afternoon of modern dance and music. The Hanover Modern Dance Collective is hosting a two-hour workshop, leading us to expressions of the soul through movement, and then from 4-5 p.m., there will be a joint musical presentation with the dancers, the Hanover Choir, and our friend Gus Mercante.

All of these we offer . . .

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

*Twyla*

## Thanks to Hanover

Words, whether written or spoken, cannot truly convey my gratitude to my pastor, Rev. Andy Jacob; my deacon, Norris Cramer, and my fellow Hanover "Saints" for their visits, phone calls, get well cards, and other forms of well wishes during my recent hospital stays. Needless to say, they have contributed to my recovery process. Thanks to you all and God's blessings.

—Walter Scott

### Sept. 8 – The Ten Commandments Kick-Off

All discipleship classes will be doing the Ten Commandments this fall. The adults will be studying from the Horizon's Bible Study *The Ten Commandments: Love Carved in Stone*, and the youth will be working on the same topic until Advent. I think it will be neat to have everyone working on the same thing!

Please join us each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. and Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m. as we study the Ten Commandments together. —*Nancy Long*



## Food Pantry

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ents as they wait to be called. We have 15-20 volunteers working each week to make sure everything runs efficiently. Our emphasis is on good nutrition—we purchase fresh fruits and vegetables each week as well as receiving a very generous donation from Giant of bread, dessert and frozen products (meat included).

We are not the biggest operation in town by any means, but we do fill a “niche” in our little spot on Jefferson Street. We are appreciated by our clients who know they can count on Hanover to provide healthy food and a place to come for a meal and good conversations. We do not just hand out food, we also try to meet our clients on a personal level and be that spot where “everybody knows your name” and is interested in each person who comes down our steps.

There is nothing more gratifying than when one of our clients has received food and comes to ask how they can help us or says that we made the difference for their family not being hungry that day. Or when someone who used to be a “regular” comes in from being gone for awhile and tells us they have been working and getting by on their own, but due to some glitch, they find themselves in need of food and they know that they can count on Hanover’s Food Pantry as a place to go and get help.

Now we find that we need help. We spend about \$1,500 each month, or \$20,000 a year. This year we found ourselves almost out of money by August. We are in the process of sending out a grant request for funding and we have been helped by the Female Harmony Society with a grant as well.

This is not the first time we have been up against the wall, and it surely won’t be the last, but I know that each time we have been on the brink, something happens to turn us around and gives up the boost we need.

Thank you to Hanover members who have supported us over the years and who I know will support us now.—*Becky Arnold*

## DEACON’S CORNER

*This year, each Deacon is going to take a turn at highlighting a member of their Care Group. This month, Ray Kirkpatrick interviews Karin and Leon Wilson.*

Karin is an Air Force baby who grew up in Colorado and Washington, D.C., with her two younger brothers. She left D.C. to attend college and eventually earned a master’s degree in health services administration. After working for a regional skilled nursing facility company and a large medical specialty organization, Karin attended Villanova University, completing a nursing degree in 2006. She is employed by the University of Pennsylvania Health System. In this capacity she provides inpatient care for people with cardiac conditions.

Leon was born and grew up in Philadelphia. He received a bachelor’s degree from the State University of New York. Leon served eight years in the U.S. Navy. He currently works for IBM and is a certified project management professional. The scope of his responsibilities includes supporting companies in the mid-Atlantic area with a focus on systems support and IT project management.

These two met in Washington in 1984 where Karin was working. They were married in 1989. In the interim, they moved to Delaware, initially living in Dover, then moving to Wilmington in 1991. They bought their current house on 19th Street in 1992. Their son, Austin, was born in 1996. Irene and Alfred Turner introduced them to Hanover and, in 1999, they joined the congregation. Their son was baptized at Hanover in 2000. Austin has attended the University of Delaware and is currently employed by the YMCA. Karin and Leon are still wanderlusts, enjoying travel, museums, concerts – just call them eclectics!



Karin has served in many roles and on various committees over the years. She is currently serving her second term as an Elder and as chairperson of the Faith in Action Committee. She served on the JSCC board, an organization which today maintains Hanover’s linkage to the neighboring communities in efforts jointly supported. She also served on the Neighborhood Foundation Brandywine Gateway Board. Leon’s focus is on neighborhood support, including involvement in the neighborhood association and its various activities. He is on the board of the Interfaith Veterans’ Workgroup, an organization helping to provide spiritual resources that help one recover from deep wounds.

On any day you may see Ginger walking her master/mistress around the neighborhood. On Tuesdays you are sure to see Ginger at the Hot Dog Cart enjoying her favorite lunch—a hot dog.

It is with thanks that we acknowledge their efforts in support of the ministry and mission of Hanover, as well as in Hanover’s neighboring community efforts.

## Deacons’ Luncheon

Sunday, Sept. 8, immediately following our 11 a.m. worship service. Join us for a lovely meal and celebrate being part of the Hanover community. Please call your deacon or the Church Office to make your reservation.

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## CALENDAR

### Weekly

Prayer Circle, 8:30 a.m., Mondays  
 K'nittee, 5:30 p.m., Mondays  
 Coffee Café, 8 a.m., Tuesdays  
 Sidewalk Cafe, 11 a.m., Tuesdays  
 Zumba, 6 p.m. Tuesdays  
 Clothing Closet, 9 a.m., Wednesdays  
 Choir rehearsal, 7 p.m., Wednesdays  
 Food Pantry, 8 a.m., Thursdays  
 Zumba, 6:30 p.m., Thursdays  
 Bridge Club, 7 p.m., Thursdays  
 Yoga, 6:15 p.m., Fridays

### Events and Meetings

Labor Day—Church Office closed, Monday, Sept. 2  
 JSC Board, 7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 3  
 From Surviving to Thriving, 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 5  
 Deacons Luncheon, 12:15 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 8  
 Invitational Team, 4 p.m., Monday, Sept. 9  
 The New Jim Crow Coalition, 7 p.m., Monday, Sept. 9  
 PR Study Group, 7:30 p.m., Mondays, Sept. 9, 16, 23,  
 and 30  
 Worship Committee, 1:15 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 10  
 Theology on Tap, 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 10  
 Faith in Action, 5 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 12  
 Session, 7 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 17  
 Staff meeting, noon, Wednesday, Sept. 18  
 Church Cookout, 5 p.m., Wednesday, Sept. 18  
 Jeremiah's Coffee House, 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Sept.  
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### September Birthdays

6	Sharron Gregory	22	Cherise Alexander
8	Lindsey Harris		Kourtney Bibbs
	Alice Winchester		Julie Davis
10	Mark Arnold		Doris Loper
	Monisha Smith		Ava Zistl
17	Peg Green	23	Ruth McFarland
20	Joshua Gregory	25	Hillary Mohaupt
			Kim Williams

## 2019 Female Harmony Society Tea

Saturday, Oct. 12, 3-5 p.m. at Hanover

Guest Speaker: Dr. Velma Scantlebury

Before every organ transplant Dr. Velma Scantlebury takes a quiet moment by the surgical sink praying for God's guidance. "Help me to do the best I can. My hands are your hands," is the prayer, says Scantlebury, the first female African-American transplant surgeon in the United States.

This year we are honoring the memory of Pat Undercuffler and raising funds to support the educational mission of the Female Harmony Society in her name.

Please join us as we celebrate the traditions of fellowship, educational leadership and prayerfulness. The Female Harmony Society Tea is a delightful afternoon where families are welcome to enjoy each other's company, and guests are always welcome.

Tickets are \$10 each and available on the website ([femaleharmonysociety.org/annual-tea](http://femaleharmonysociety.org/annual-tea)), by sending a check to the Female Harmony Society via Hanover's Church Office, or by contacting Cheryl Heiks, president (563-3273).

## Bible Study Group Picks a Book

The Bible study group led by the Rev. John Holden will be discussing Diana Butler Bass's *Christianity After Religion: The end of the Church and the Birth of a New Spiritual Awakening*.

The first session will be Monday, Sept. 9, at 7:30 p.m., in the second floor meeting room in the education building. The group will meet each Monday through Nov. 25 except for Oct. 7 and Nov. 4.

If you'd like to join this group, please contact Rev. Holden at (302) 654-6119, or [johnholden@gmail.com](mailto:johnholden@gmail.com), or the Church Office.

**11 a.m. Worship Resumes Sept. 8**  
 Continental Breakfast 9 a.m. • Discipleship Classes 9:30 a.m.