

# THE HANOVER HERALD

A newsletter for the people of Hanover Presbyterian Church, Wilmington, Delaware  
February 2020

## Have Any Fun Ideas?

Have an idea for a fun event or outing for the Hanover family? Then Church Life wants you! This is the committee that plans things like the Church Picnic, Jeremiah's Coffee House and Blue Rocks games to name a few. We are always looking for suggestions for other types of events that get us together outside of Sunday mornings. Please talk to Bea Wilson or Becky Arnold if you have suggestions and would like to join this group. And while you're at it, don't forget to sign up for Coffee Hour (another one of ours). We hope we'll get a group to go bowling soon!

## Post-Religion Group Begins New Study

The Post-Religion Study Group, led by the Rev. John Holden, meets on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. beginning Feb. 10 on the second floor of the education wing.

What happens when the Christ of faith meets the Jesus of history? How can it be that "scholars can arrive at such startlingly different interpretations of the reported sayings [of Jesus], and thereby such very different profiles of Jesus himself?" This is the question that preoccupies this study of David Boulton's book, *Who on Earth Was Jesus?: The Modern Quest for the Jesus of History*.

This book is an amazingly good synthesis of historical Jesus scholarship. It gives an overview of several factions of Jesus scholars, comparing their conclusions and explaining their theses. The scope is as wide-ranging as it is evenhanded; from theologians to scholars to popes, it distills their thoughts into a comprehensible and comprehensive survey of the best contemporary thinkers.

*Continued on Page 3*

## Construction Project Starts in Attic

Did you know that the Hanover church building has an attic? We are betting not everyone is aware of the



*Ducts in a row in a second-floor Sunday School classroom.*

very large attic above the Church School Hall. Rumor has it that Herman Pulliam is selling tickets for tours of the attic. That may be the most creative fundraising idea yet!

There was never much to see in that attic until we started the air conditioning installation, but lots of activity has been going on in the attic over the past few weeks. The air conditioning mechanics have been running ducts and installing air handler units and vents have been

placed in the ceiling. The electricians have installed a large conduit from the electrical panel in the gym all the way up to the bathroom on the balcony level and through the wall to a classroom, where another large electrical panel will be installed. Lines from the electrical panel will go into the attic and out to the air handling units.

The compressors have been purchased and four units will be installed on the flat roof between the church building and the education wing—three will air condition the church school hall area, the classrooms, conference room, and office on the balcony level and one unit will serve the gym. We encountered a slight set-back when we learned the tar and gravel roof needs to be replaced before the platforms and compressors are installed. That will cost an additional \$10,000, but we are moving forward and work will begin on the new roof as soon as weather permits.

We are also moving forward with renovation of the Gathering Place kitchen to begin soon after the Soul Food Luncheon. The plumber is ordering the plumbing components and new sinks will be coming from Singer Equipment Co. There will be lots of "joyful noise" coming from various parts of the building and some organized chaos will surround us as progress continues. Your patience and support are greatly appreciated.—*The Gathering Place Group*

## Fundraiser: Super Easter Egg Sale!

Anyone who has ever tasted one of the most delicious Easter eggs sold by First Presbyterian Church of Port Penn will know that they can't be beat. Port Penn will not be making these eggs this year and has graciously offered their supplies and know-how to help Hanover do the job.

Anyone interested in helping with this project, please

*Continued on Page 3*



### High Noon at Hanover

*Rejoice in hope . . . persevere in prayer.*—Romans 12:12\*

It happens in public and in private. It happens in large groups and in solitude. It happens morning, noon, and night—at any time, and all the time. It takes place in any and every place. It is fast or slow; very loud and utterly silent. It is joyous and somber; desperate and hopeful; fearful and assured. What is “It”?

Prayer. The most basic and simple act of connecting with God. Just as prayer cannot be bound by time or space, neither are there limits or boundaries for what constitutes prayer. Just as there are no two people who are the same, so too are there no two ways of praying that are the same. There is no right or wrong way to pray; there is your way.

There are, however, at least five types of prayers:

- Prayers of PRAISE exalt the glory of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer;
- In a prayer of CONFESSION we acknowledge the ways in which we have not been faithful;
- In our prayers of PETITION we ask God for what we need;
- Our prayers of INTERCESSION focus on the needs of others;
- Prayers of THANKSGIVING offer gratitude to God for our blessings.

At the leadership retreat in January the Deacons and Elders decided that prayer would be a theme and focus in 2020. The monthly devotions offered during meetings of both bodies will be centered around prayer. Then the leaders dreamed of how through our prayers we might build community, connections, and relationships, with the additional goal of encouraging more active prayer lives.

“High Noon” is the exact moment when both hands of the clock are pointing straight up, and they are also perfectly aligned with each other, call it 12:12 time. And so it will

be for us: at high noon our hands and hearts will be pointing straight up, acknowledging our creator, and we will be in perfect alignment with one another.

Here’s how it will work:

Each week a specific prayer will be chosen with the invitation for all to take part.

- It will appear in the Flash on Thursday afternoon, the bulletin on Sunday morning, and the Joys and Concerns on Tuesday morning.

- Then, mid-way through the week, at noon on Wednesday wherever we are and in the midst of whatever we’re doing, we will offer our prayers for the weekly issue, situation, hope, petition, or intercession.

- We will get current with social media with the goal of reaching a wider audience, especially our younger folks.

- We will print the prayer requests on small cards and set them out in the church for people to take home.

In 2020 we will join in solidarity with one another to pray for our church, community, nation, and world. We will do so based in the conviction that prayer matters, not because the volume of prayers or the number of prayers. Prayer matters because through our prayers we are bound by our common desires, dreams, missions, and visions. Prayer matters because it changes things as hearts, minds, and spirits align in the pursuit of God’s reign on earth as it is in Heaven.

May the prayers we offer in unison this year connect us more deeply with one another, with God, and with the needs of the world.

Peace, *Andy*

\* Yes, 12:12 actually is the chapter and verse!

### Flower Reminder

If you would like to donate flowers or give a donation to the Flower Benevolence Fund (goes to Hanover’s fundraising efforts) please call Becky Arnold at 584-0356. You can put a dedication or memorial in the bulletin whenever you choose; a donation is not necessary.

Our Black History Month celebration is here, and it’s filled with lots of wonderful music: spirituals, gospel songs, 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 hymns, *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, I offer a look at its origins, written by Dr. C. Michael Hawn, professor of church music at Perkins School of Theology.

*Lift every voice and sing,  
Till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the listening skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.*

Few hymns have the capacity to define the identity of an entire group. *Lift Every Voice* began as a hastily-written composition for an unassuming school assembly in 1900, but has become the African-American national anthem. James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938) received degrees in literature from Atlanta University in 1894, with a master of arts in 1904. He had a versatile career as a writer, teacher, diplomat and lawyer, becoming the first African-American to pass the bar in the state of Florida. His diplomatic posts took him to Venezuela and Nicaragua. His most prominent leadership role was as the executive secretary of the NAACP, a position that he assumed in 1920. His most important published works include *The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man* (1920), *The Book of American Negro Poetry* (1922), *God’s Trombones* (1927), and *Along This Way* (1933).

Johnson had been asked to speak in Jacksonville, Fla., his hometown, for an observance celebrating the birth of Abraham Lincoln. Rather than make a speech, he decided to write a poem. As the time drew near, his plans changed from a poem to a song. James turned to his brother, J. Rosamund Johnson (1873-1954), to compose music for his text. Though the brothers wrote over 200 songs together, mostly for

*Continued on Page 3*

## 'Lift Every Voice'

*Continued from Page 2*

the stage, *Lift Every Voice* had an exceptional place in their musical collaborations. James noted in 1935, "The lines of this song repay me in elation, almost of exquisite anguish, whenever I hear them sung by Negro children."

The NAACP adopted *Lift Every Voice* as its theme song. Julian Bond, former NAACP chairman, stated that the song holds deep meaning for the civil rights movement: "When people stand and sing it, you just feel a connectedness with the song, with all the people who've sung it on numerous occasions, happy and sad, over the 100 years before."

Is this a hymn just for African-Americans or is it for all people? Dr. James Abbington, associate professor of music and worship at Emory University's Candler School of Theology, and a scholar in African American hymnody, provides an answer to this question: "Several years ago, I was invited to organize and conduct a choir for the annual Detroit Branch NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner at Cobo Hall. It was during the time of the Persian Gulf War and tensions were very high between the Jewish and Arab communities in the city.

"The 1,000-voice choir, accompanied by the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, was made up of Anglo-Americans, Canadians, Native Americans, Koreans, Italians, Jews, Arabs, African-Americans and others, and *Lift Every Voice and Sing* was one of the selections for that occasion. After the first rehearsal Jewish, Korean, and Native American members of the chorus approached me and said, 'This song isn't just for African-Americans and people from Africa, it belongs to all of us who are "true to our God and true to our Native land".'

With J. Rosamund Johnson's music matching the spirit of the stirring lyrics, the result is a powerful hymn for all Americans, forged in the fires of the struggle for freedom and refined in the flames of hope.

May all our songs be a flame of hope and . . . *Soli deo Gloria*, (only for the glory of God) — Twyla

## CALENDAR

### Weekly

**Prayer Circle**, 8:30 a.m., Mondays

**K'nittee**, 5:30 p.m.

**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; 6:30 p.m., Thursdays

**Clothing Closet**, 9 a.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

### Events and Meetings

**Faith in Action**, 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 13

**Worship**: Guest speaker: Dr. Lawrence M. Livingston, 11 a.m., Sunday, Feb. 16

**Soul Food Luncheon**, noon, Sunday, Feb. 16

**Session meeting**, 7 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 18

**Staff meeting**, noon, Wednesday, Feb. 19

**Pasta Dinner**, 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 19

**Women's Bible Study**, 12:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 20

**Mardi Gras Sunday**, with guest musicians The Dixie Ramblers, 11 a.m., Sunday, Feb. 23

**Gospel Vespers**, 4 p.m., Sunday,

## Food Pantry Update

We are currently hosting a representative who is helping our clients apply for a job with the Census Bureau.

We also have a registered nurse at the pantry every other Thursday who takes blood pressures for our clients.

We will have visits from Diamond Chiropractic throughout the year to give clients suggestions on how to deal with aches and pains.

The first Sunday of each month a food donation arrives from Westminster Presbyterian Church

During the month a food donation arrives from Concord Presbyterian Church. On Sunday, Feb. 2, some of the youth group from Concord delivered food donations from their "Souper Bowl of Caring."

## February Birthdays

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

## Post-Religion Study

*Continued from Page 1*

In the end, it is not the scholar, nor the theologian, who will define the kingdom on Earth. Rather, it will be the job of each of us to discern the Jesus of today from words written long ago. Through guided discussion of this book, the course will help us to seek our own understandings of the Historical Jesus and to find Jesus in our culture and time.

Questions? Contact instructor, John Holden [Johnholden@gmail.com](mailto:Johnholden@gmail.com) (302) 654-6119

## Super Easter Egg Sale

*Continued from Page 1*

call Becky Arnold (584-0356). The adage that "many hands make light work" fits the bill here so don't hesitate to help—no experience necessary!

Also, this is not a "women only" activity—men are equally capable.

There will be an organizational and informational meeting Sunday, Feb. 23 in the Gathering Place after worship.

This promises to be an "eggceptional" and "eggstraordinary" project!



Hanover Street Presbyterian Church  
1801 N. Jefferson Street  
Wilmington, DE 19802  
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Featuring:

**Mount Pleasant High School Gospel Choir**

**Soloist Brian Gray**

**Delaware State University Choir**

**Storyteller Anita Young**

**The Hanover Choir**



**Soul Food Luncheon**

**Sunday, February 16**

**Immediately following worship**

Bring your favorite dish to share with everyone and join in a feast of "good for the soul" soul food! There'll be lots of fried chicken, ham, macaroni and cheese, greens, and much more, with delicious homemade desserts. There is a \$10 per person fee, and all the proceeds goes to our student scholarship fund.

See you then, and come hungry!