

We're Still Going Strong!

The church office is open – Pastor Andy and Twyla are here on Mondays – Thursdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Herman is here each weekday morning from 8 to noon. Construction work is happening in the kitchen, and the new air conditioning system is being installed. Becky and the Food Pantry volunteers are serving many families in need. Thanks to Pastor Andy's diligence every committee has learned to use Zoom for virtual meetings. Tom Davis is a wizard at recording our "worship offerings" so that we remain connected through the spirit. A heart-felt thank you to everyone who is working to make the life of our church and ministries continue in this uncertain time.

A Financial Challenge

The Finance Committee met the evening of March 23 to review Hanover's finances, in light of the coronavirus epidemic, which is having a stressful impact on all of us, personally and financially.

In the category of good news to share, we have received \$67,103 in pledged and non-pledged giving as of mid-March, which is 33 percent of the budgeted amount of \$205,000, at approximately the first quarter of the year. We also received \$595 in per capita payments. Thank you!

In that same category of good news is the progress on the installation of air conditioning. We have paid \$108,599 in combined expenses to the air conditioning contractor and the electrical contractor. We will owe approximately \$69,300 when the project is completed, and that money is in hand. While the contractors may be pulled onto other jobs on some days, because they have been forced to cut back on em-

Continued on Page 5

The (Renewed) Holy Week Plan

Little could we have known back in January when the Worship Committee developed a theme for Lent—*What Brings You to Jesus?*—how prescient it was. The plan was to hear a story each week about one of the first followers of Jesus who came into his presence. The goal was to have us reflect on what brings each of us to Jesus so that we might strengthen our personal relationship with him.

I can only imagine that the trials and tribulations of the last weeks, coupled with our seclusion from one another, has brought us all deeper insights about the question than any sermon ever could. May God bless us during this time; that the trials and tribulations that have brought us to Jesus would be transformed into the ties that bind us to him.

The Worship Committee held a special and lengthy (internet) meeting to revamp our plans for the services in Holy Week. Given the current state of emergency, there will be no services or gatherings at the church until May 15.

Here's the Holy Week Plan

- We will create and record a worshipful message for the five Holy Week services (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunrise and Resurrection Service).

- Information about them will be sent out in the Flash on Thursdays and posted on our web site and Facebook page.

- The actual services will be available on YouTube, and the link will be sent out prior to the scheduled time of each service (Saturday

evenings for Sunday services).

- If you do not currently receive the Joys and Concerns messages on

Tuesday mornings and would like to receive information about the services, please call the church office and request to be placed on that list as it will be the one we're using.

- If you have a prayer request, please contact Andy or Twyla so that we might share them in the next recorded service.

- And if you have any questions about any of this, please reach out to me, Twyla, or your Deacon.

If You Don't Have Access

A special and important note for those who do not have internet access. Please know that the Session and the Worship Committee continue to have long conversations about how best to reach out, lest anyone feel left out. Although we are making every attempt to do all we can, please help us. If you have ideas, suggestions, and especially requests, for how you would like to remain connected, please call me or Twyla.

Here is what we would have you know:

- The Deacons are there for you; they are making a focused effort to reach out to those in their care groups without internet access; please be sure your Deacon knows if you do not.

- Everything we are sending out is accessible through a cell/ smartphone; if you have a relative or friend with one, ask them if they can pull them up—and if they/you have any issues—call us!

- For those in nursing/care facil-

Continued on Page 2



FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

The Holy Week We'll Never Forget

Dear Hanover Saints,

I miss you! I miss seeing your faces in worship. I miss the energy, buzz, and banter of fellowship time. I miss my weekly connection with our young students. I miss the planned visits as much as the spontaneous ones when you stop by during the week. I miss being in the same room when making difficult decisions. I miss hugs, handshakes, and holding hands while praying.

They missed him! They missed seeing the special look and the passion in his eyes when he preached and taught. They missed the sense of comfort and encouragement he gave them. They missed watching him perform miracles, cure, and heal; seeing first-hand what unconditional love looks like. They missed eating and drinking with him—especially that bread and the cup.

As much as I miss you, I will get through this wilderness because I know that the distance imposed by this virus will end; the eager anticipation of our reunion brings relief, comfort, strength, and hope. I cannot even begin to imagine what it would feel like if I thought I'd never see you again.

On that Friday long ago when Jesus was led up a hill, nailed to a cross, and died, the disciples and followers of Jesus believed they would never see him again. They believed their social distance from Jesus was complete and permanent. Our missing each other during Holy Week is but a shadow of the pain and desperation they must have felt on that weekend.

Yes, this will be the Holy Week we will never forget. For all who live through this, it will forever be the coronavirus Holy Week; the one when we were not able to be together in community.

But, if we allow it, this might be the Holy Week we always remember because it was the one when we came closest to understanding the passion of Holy Week. Through the

experience of being separated and missing each other, perhaps we will experience but an inkling of the pain and anguish experienced by the first disciples as they believed they would never see their best friend again. Then, by the grace of God, we might more fully rejoice in the miraculous Sunday morning surprise: the joyous resurrection, revelation, and reunion received at an empty tomb.

My friends, this year we will be blessed with two Easters and two joyous resurrection celebrations. In solitude we will taste the sweet gift of new and everlasting life on April 12. And yet, in solidarity, we will sing: *Jesus Christ is risen today . . . Alleluia!* And then on our first Sunday in our church home together, we will celebrate the resurrection of our spirits as we soak in the gift of renewed life with one another.

May your Holy Week be filled with passion that brings you to Jesus, and light that extinguishes all darkness.

Peace, *Andy*

OFFICE NOTES

No Easter Flowers: Since we are unable to hold our regular worship services, we are not going to be ordering Easter flowers. If you have already paid for your order, we will promptly return your check to you.

Speaking of air conditioning, are you looking for ways to keep cool this summer? Please contact the office—we know of four window air conditioners and two “old school” oscillating floor fans that are looking for a good home.

Extra! Extra! Read all about it! A change is coming for *The Herald!* Starting with the June issue our monthly newsletter will no longer be mailed to all members. It is already available by email and is posted on our website and Facebook. However, if you would like to continue to receive a hard copy, please contact the church office and let us know so we can mail one to you each month.

Generosity, Goodness, and Grace: Praise God!

I once had a spiritual director who was obsessed (in a good way) with touchstones. Yes, the actual stones that you embrace in your hands while praying. But even more, the events in your life that never lose their power; moments you can return to in times of trouble and doubt that remind you of the goodness and grace of God.

I am thrilled to offer a touchstone moment for us, the Hanover Saints. In the midst of ongoing and energized efforts to raise the rest of the funds needed to complete the renovations in the Gathering Place, we have received news of a donor who has committed \$80,000 toward the project. The funds to complete the installation of air conditioning throughout the building are in hand, and that project is scheduled to be finished by the middle of April. This gift for the installation of two handicapped bathrooms, a custodian's closet, and a re-configured food pantry in the Gathering Place brings us much closer to the total needed to sign on with a contractor. Praise God, Hanover Saints, for we are moving ever closer to the fulfillment of our dreams!

In the church, this is the season of searching, wandering, and wondering. In Lent we go into the wilderness; at Easter we emerge with renewed life. In our world today, this is a time of anxiety, doubts, and fear. In this season of new life, may God bless this gift to be a touchstone to which we can return to provide hope, light, and grace in any moment of shadows, darkness, or doubt. Peace, *Andy*

Holy Week

Continued from Page 1

ities and communities, ask if management can help you.

- And if you would like the recordings in some other format (CD, DVD, etc.), let us know and we'll do everything we can to accommodate.

May God bless our efforts to remain connected in this time, , and may those connections bring us . . . Peace, *Andy*

Our Faith in Action—One Great Hour of Sharing

Here we are, caught up in an epidemic of a disease for which there is not yet a cure and not yet much in the way of treatment. For many of us, there is unwanted isolation, separation from loved ones, fear of illness and prolonged confinement.

While we are dealing with all this, still following Jesus, we want to go forth proclaiming the Kingdom of God. We make phone calls to persons who were already homebound, to keep them from further isolation. When we can do so without danger of transmitting the virus, we visit loved ones to cheer them up. There are ways we can help people in all kinds of crises in the United States and all over the world.

Through the One Great Hour of Sharing offering, one financial gift will go three ways: the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of People, and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. These three programs help the very people that Jesus taught his disciples to serve: the neediest, the most vulnerable, and those pushed to the margins of society.

We usually receive this offering on Palm Sunday. We don't know when we will begin worshipping in the Hanover building again, so here are ways you can give:

To contribute by check, make the check payable to Hanover, and write OGHs in the memo line. You can mail it to the church at any time or wait until we meet together again.

To contribute online, go to specialofferings.pcusa.org, scroll to One Great Hour of Sharing and respond as prompted. You will have the opportunity to record Hanover as your congregation.

To contribute with cash, put your contribution in a safe place (with a note about what it's for) and bring it to church the next time we worship in person. We will keep the offering open indefinitely, so that we all have a chance to contribute.

Together we can experience the joy of community and offering our gifts to help God's children in need through the One Great Hour of Sharing. Thank you for contributing as you are able. — *Alice Davis*

A Very Special Privilege—and a Welcome

The most formative experiences in my preparation for ministry did not take place in the classroom or the chapel. They took place at St. James Presbyterian Church in the near north side of Chicago, at Sixth-Grace Presbyterian Church in the south side of Chicago, and at New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C. Each of those communities of faith welcomed me and shared their lives with me as their seminary intern. Those were the classrooms where I really learned my most valuable lessons.

To welcome and walk with someone who is pursuing a call to ministry is an honor, privilege, responsibility, and great opportunity. When done well it provides invaluable insight and experience for the one called as they discern their call to ministry. At the same time it provides a congregation the opportunity to be a laboratory in which the gifts of the one called are used in the service of the larger church. And, it can be not just mutually rewarding and beneficial, but a whole lotta fun!

In a specially called meeting, the Session met (via internet) with Sara Snowden, who is a second-year student at Lancaster Seminary in Pennsylvania. The meeting was called in response to Sara's request to com-

plete her field education requirement at Hanover. And, with great anticipation and energy, the Session joyfully voted to invite her into the Hanover experience.

Sara will be serving at Hanover for 6-8 hours per week from August through April 2021. The goal is to provide Sara with a wide variety of experiences that encompass our many ministries. In a very real way, we will be a laboratory in which she can experiment with the many aspects of ministry in the process of determining where she feels most called to serve.

Sara and her husband, Chip, have been residents of Wilmington since 2002, and she is a member and elder at First and Central Church. She is a second career seminarian with a vocational background in education, public relations, and management. Having received her first call to ministry 17 years ago, she is, to say the least, a highly motivated disciple! Watch for additional information in the coming months as the specific plans for her roles are developed.

Praise God for the many gifts of ministry, and all those who offer them. May our shared journey in the coming year bring great blessings for all who take part. Welcome Sara!

Peace, *Andy*



CALENDAR

Weekly

All regular events except for the Food Pantry have been canceled for the immediate future.

"Zoom" Meetings and Events

Deacons' meeting, 5:45 p.m.,

Tuesday, April 7

Faith in Action, 5:30 p.m., Thurs-

day, April 9

Church Office Closed, Monday,

April 13

Invitational team, 4:30 p.m., Mon-

day, April 20

Worship Committee meeting, 1:15

p.m., Tuesday, April 21

Session meeting, 7 p.m., Tuesday,

April 21

May Herald article deadline, Fri-

day, April 24

April Birthdays

- 1 Levi Moore
- 2 Tom Baker
- 3 Christina Howard
Judy Werner
- 4 April Lewis Simpson
- 5 Romain Alexander
Heather Brown
- 6 Rick Bayard
- 8 Alexandra Evitts
- 10 Alice Davis
Nona Holy
- 12 Carolyn Klawitter
- 14 Norris Cramer
- 19 Karen Ingram
- 22 Dawn Silicki
- 23 James Rosa
- 26 Kevin Davenport
Beth Undercuffler
- 30 Karen Melvin

Family Promise Adapts To Serve Despite Virus

The week of March 29 through April 5 was supposed to be the next Family Promise hosting week for 9th Ward Interfaith Coalition congregations, providing shelter and sustenance for families who are experiencing homelessness and are currently in the Family Promise rotational hospitality network.

After much email communication regarding the challenges of adequate social distancing and the formulation of plans B, C, . . . the staff of Family Promise of Northern New Castle County made the decision to consolidate all families currently in the network at the Hospitality Center in space leased from Jesus House on Milltown Road. Even in the face of Covid-19 homelessness doesn't miraculously disappear. Thankfully Family Promise has the Hospitality Center option, which has only existed for the past year, to allow the

Family Promise Needs Your Help. See article on facing page

families to shelter in place as we all are now doing. A few 9th Ward Interfaith Coalition volunteers will still be providing dinners but they will be able to do so in a way that is safe for all involved. They will be offering cooked dinners, along with snacks, drinks, breakfast items, etc. Dinners will be packaged in family portions and delivered to each individual cottage.

Critically-needed items are: hand sanitizer, liquid hand soap, diapers, baby wipes, disinfecting spray, tissues, all-purpose cleaner with bleach, toilet bowl cleaner, extra batteries, nitrile gloves, trash bags (kitchen size), first aid items, ibuprofen, and activity kits for kids (including sidewalk chalk and balls and toys they can use outdoors).

Financial gifts! Here is where you can go to donate: www.fpgives.org/organizations/family-promise-of-northern-new-castle-county

You can either deliver your items to the center or bring them to the Hanover office. Faith in Action will arrange their delivery from there.

Thanks so much for supporting this vital ministry.—Chris Garrett

Hanover Presbyterian Church • Wilmington, Delaware

DEACON'S CORNER

This year, each Deacon is going to take a turn at highlighting members of their Care Group. This month, Isheta Smith presents two interviews.

Ray Kirkpatrick

In 1966, Anne Marie and Ray were married after he was commissioned in the Army. They came back to Delaware in 1970, along with their two children, Christine and Michael. With a stroke of great luck within a few months he was hired by Atlas Chemical Industries Inc. (later known as ICI, Zeneca, and AstraZeneca) as a member of their newly forming clinical research unit. He remained there for nearly 40 years before retiring. They lived in Wilmington for most of that time, where he still lives today. The Triangle Neighborhood was, and still is a family community—mostly. But it has changed from a slow-moving community to the Boulevard speedway. Their church life—actually, most of their life—was centered on West Church and its ministry and mission, where Anne Marie worshiped, and they were married, and Ray became a Presbyterian. The rest is history . . . and still in the making.

Judith Quinn

Jude was born in a tiny town in Pennsylvania called Meshoppen. The hospital was in an old house and the delivery room was the former kitchen. It had swinging doors like an old saloon, and her dad watched her birth from the other side. Pretty unusual for 1959!

Her parents brought her to Delaware in 1961 and started attending Hanover. Jude grew up in the church but moved away for several years. Of course, when she came back, the only church she wanted to attend was Hanover.

Jude is currently on Session and is chair of the Personnel Committee. She also enjoys being the lay liturgist regularly and has recently joined the choir.

The Super Sale is a big event for Jude, and she'll miss selling pictures and frames this year, but will gladly step up in 2021! Virtual Super Sale 2020?



After Hanover was closed to meetings and other activities, the Friday evening yoga group took advantage of the warmer weather and moved its sessions to the Sugar Bowl bandstand in Brandywine Park, a space large enough for social distancing. The group is planning to start an additional, daytime session on another day. Anyone who is interested in participating can contact Alice Davis (alicerwilm@gmail.com) or Lorie Tudor (lorietudor@comcast.net).

Focusing on the Mission . . .

He drives up Philadelphia Pike for his semi-annual appointment with the allergist, and sneezes. Not unusual for this time of year. Should he, a senior, be nervous? He's not anxiety prone, but with the advancing virus constantly in the news how can he not have dying at the back of his mind? "Am I as ready as I can be for whatever comes?" he ponders.

Then his mind shifts immediately into reverse, going back 50 years. He remembers asking himself that question many times over, "Am I as ready as I can be for whatever comes?" As he tossed in his bunk unable to sleep, he would go through a checklist for every pre-dawn op. M-16 cleaned and lubed. Check. Bandolier with four magazines in their sleeves, each with 18, not 20 rounds loaded to avoid jamming. Check. Extra ammo can loaded and first aid kit ready to carry aboard the skimmer. Check. Tidal charts indicate adequate water for getting in and out. Check. Call signs and radio frequencies confirmed for air support and medevac. Check. Bone handle lucky pen knife his wife sent him in his jungle fatigues front pocket. Check. In the morning he would take off his wristwatch and put that in his other front pocket. Nothing

shiny must give him away in the bush. He would take his wedding ring off just before leaving the hooch. Check.

He remembers now. This was how he dealt with the dread of dying and preparations for surviving when he was 25, by doing everything he could that made sense to do: check, check, check. Beyond that there was nothing that could be done, so it didn't help to fret. Must put all those worries aside and focus on the mission.

That's how he came through. Returning to the now, he figures that's the way to get through. Do everything that makes sense to do. Wash hands frequently. Check. Don't touch face. Check. Avoid crowds. Check. Get plenty of rest. Check. Eat sensibly and stay hydrated. Check. Get daily moderate exercise. Check. Phone loved ones often. Check. Meditate and pray. Check. Will these measures guarantee survival? No more than his checklist of 50 years ago could guarantee it. But this he remembers above all: Focusing on the mission was the best antidote to fear. And he still has a mission: to help those like himself who are striving to survive.—*a writing by Tom Davis*

A Financial Challenge

Continued from Page 1

ployees due to the impact of the coronavirus epidemic on the economy, the installation is on target to be finished in mid-April.

The Finance Committee is concerned about Hanover's cash flow, in light of the force of the epidemic on our economy, Hanover investments, and our inability to come together for worship. We recommended to the Session specific budget cuts, the transfer of funds from our investment account, and we received authorization to obtain a line of credit with our bank, in the event that we need a cushion to meet financial obligations, especially for our hardworking staff.

The Finance Committee urges members and friends of Hanover, if you are able, please send your financial pledges and gifts to the church office. If you owe a pledge to the capital campaign and are in a position to fulfill that pledge, we will be very grateful. The disruption in our lives is profound, and in these emotionally trying times, let us come together in support of our Hanover family and the community it serves.—*Ellen Casson*

Family Promise: An Opportunity to Serve

I'd like to share a story that came to me from the staff at Family Promise. It was sent as a "thank you" to the coordinators at participating faith institutions (Karin Wilson, Beth Undercuffler and Chris Garrett at Hanover). However, looking at it now through the lens of the pandemic that we are all living through makes it all the more meaningful to me:

There once was a farmer who grew the most excellent wheat. Every season he won the award for the best wheat in his county. A wise woman asked him about his success. He said that the key was sharing his best seed with his neighbors. The wise woman asked, "How can you share your best wheat seed with your neighbors when they compete with you every year?" The farmer replied, "That's simple—the wind spreads the pollen from everyone's wheat and carries it from field to field. If my neighbors grew inferior wheat, cross-pollination would degrade everyone's wheat, including mine. If I'm to grow the best wheat, I must help my neighbors grow the best wheat as well." This is not only excellent advice for growing the best crops, but also great advice for how to live your life. If you want to live a meaningful and happy life, help others find happiness. Remember, the value of your life is measured by the lives you touch with love, kindness, respect, and hope.

This advice is no less true during these current times. And so I make a request of all of you as you shelter in place and maintain social distancing. Family Promise has been an important part of my spiritual journey at Hanover and with the 9th Ward Interfaith Coalition for the past 7 years, serving as a congregational coordinator for part of that time. On June 1 I will be retiring from my "day job," and moving to Connecticut in the weeks following (God willing!). There is nothing that would give me greater peace than to know that someone who is touched by the mission of Family Promise has stepped up to help Karin and Beth in supporting this important work. I won't say there are no challenges (as this month's experience clearly demonstrates), but many hands do truly make light work that is desperately needed in our city and county.—*Chris Garrett*

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 Food Pantry Keeps on Going!

As I write this today, March 26, I am so proud and overwhelmed by the commitment of our Food Pantry volunteers. For the past three weeks they have been coming in early each Thursday morning to get set up and ready to help our clients get the food they need during this crazy time. Their patience and kindness is such a blessing to all who they serve.

Today saw our numbers double from the past two weeks. We served 52 families. Clients were lined up outside the church before 7 a.m.; the office has been flooded with calls asking if we would be open. Volunteers were outside to make sure social distancing was observed by all. People were asked what they would like to have and their requests were filled by volunteers in the Gathering Place and then delivered to the clients outside. All in all, it was a fairly smooth operation. Our clients were understanding and appreciative of the efforts we have made to keep them safe.

By 9:30 we were pretty much cleaned out of most items. We hope to be able to restock and get back to

business next week. Any donations would be greatly appreciated. While it may not be possible to drop grocery donations off, a monetary gift would help to buy fresh produce and the other things we normally stock. One of Hanover's nearby neighbors made peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for our clients to enjoy as they waited for their turns. These little kindnesses go a long way in keeping our reputation as a church that cares about people alive and well. Thank you to all who support the Food Pantry!—*Becky Arnold*

Kitchen Work Continues

The walls have been painted and we are working on the cabinets now. New flooring has been purchased (thanks to a generous donor) and will most likely be installed in the beginning of April. The plumbing has been done, now we are waiting on new sinks. When we all get together again, come on down and take a look. We think you'll like what you see!

Creation Care Through the Eyes of the Young

Before the Covid-19 detour our Jr. and Sr. High youth groups began planning a worship service for our annual Creation Care Sunday, scheduled for April 26. It is a momentous year: the 50th anniversary of Earth Day! Likely we will still be under a state of emergency and not able to worship together at the church. Nonetheless, the group continues to plan for the service, and how it might be recorded and offered to the congregation. And if you've ever wondered what a conversation between God, humans, and aliens would sound like . . . !

May God bless the creativity and insights of our younger ones, and may they lead us to a deeper appreciation for all of creation.