

THE HANOVER HERALD

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

Construction Update

Were you wondering if it would ever happen? Well, wonder no more. The air conditioning installation for Hanover Church will be complete by the end of April 2020—not April 2021—but April 2020!

The gym is the last area to be completed. The cost for the gymnasium installation is coming from Jefferson Street Center, through a grant from the Laffey McHugh Foundation. Once that is completed, we need to have some warmer weather to test the systems.

We want to add that we have been very pleased with those working on every aspect of this construction, from the carpenter and roofer, to the air conditioning installers, to the electricians. They have been kind to the building and those using the building and they have been skilled in their craft.

But wait! There is more! You know all about the kitchen renovation. You have seen pictures and even witnessed a worship service celebrating the kitchen. There are finishing touches that have yet to be completed. We need to purchase and install the freezer and refrigerator, have some electrical work done; more painting and odds and

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What Lies Ahead for Hanover?

As we continue to wrestle with the daily struggles of living through this state of emergency, I would offer the following information with the hope that we would provide answers in any places we have them.

At this time, the state of emergency has not been extended beyond May 15, and yet every indication is that it will be. The most recent (13th!) modification of the order requires that every person over the age of 12 wear a face mask when in public. Last week Gov. Carney also announced that schools will not reopen this academic year. When Delaware will begin any process of reopening, we do not know. Like everyone, we will be watching carefully for the details of that process when it happens.

Given these restrictions the church will remain closed at least until, and likely beyond, May 15. We will then follow the direction given by our civil authorities, with the assumption those decisions are based in science, medicine, and what is best for the community as a whole.

What This Means for Hanover

The church will remain closed to

all programs, ministries, and worship until the state of emergency is either amended or lifted. The food pantry will continue to operate on Thursday mornings. (The number of volunteers is limited to 3 or 4, and no guests enter the building.) We have canceled the annual church picnic and Pentecost celebration at Fox Point State Park, originally scheduled for Sunday, May 31.

We are maintaining “office hours” Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Twyla and I are working primarily from home so during the day we have the church’s number forwarded to one of our cell phones so you can still call 658-5114 and get an answer. If we don’t pick up, leave a message and we’ll get right back with you. If you do not hear back, you may use our cell phones (Twyla: 484-868-6657; Andy: 302-299-5704).

So, enough about what’s not happening. Here’s what is . . .

Each week we are recording a worship service. At this time we are not bringing additional people into the building for the services. As much as we would like to do that, we have decided to err on the side

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Food Pantry Still Helps

Neither rain, snow nor pandemic will keep the Hanover Food Pantry down! We are still up and running on Thursdays, just with a little different method of operation. A “skeleton” crew meets clients at the door [photo at left] and gives them a pre-packaged box of food.

We have been fortunate to still receive donations of food from other churches as well as our own members who drop things off. The Giant supermarket has been great. We have an abundance of meat, bread and desserts as well as other miscel-

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FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

Dear Hanover Saints,

As you can imagine there have been constant and voluminous responses from religious communities related to the global pandemic. Praise God for the endless stream of prayers and devotions that clog the internet. One of my new spiritual practices born in this pandemic is to surf the 'net for words of solace that come from traditions other than my own.

I share this recent example of a prayer that soothed my soul and strengthened by resolve:

Prayer for the Christian Community

*We are not people of fear:
we are people of courage.
We are not people who protect
our own safety:
we are people who protect our
neighbours' safety.
We are not people of greed:
we are people of generosity.
We are your people God,
giving and loving,
wherever we are,
whatever it costs
For as long as it takes
wherever you call us.*

—Barbara Glasson, president of the
Methodist Conference (UK)

Many of you will know by the time you read this that last Thursday was a landmark day in Hanover's long history of landmark days. On that day we received verification that two recent proposals for funds to complete the visions captured in our capital campaign were granted. With the receipt of these funds we now have what we need to proceed with all the projects that have been up to now dreams, hopes, plans, and prayers. In the end, by the grace of God, we have raised nearly \$590,000. See the Property Report in this issue for more detailed information.

Even as we share in this glorious and joyful news, it stands in contrast to the many and deep anxieties and fears we live with daily. How does one receive, and celebrate, gifts considering all that has been taken

away from so many? I cannot provide an answer that makes it any easier. I can, however, offer this: as disciples of Christ we are to receive these gifts and blessings no differently than any others: with great gratitude and with deep humility. Most importantly, we are to receive them with the resolve that they will be used for the healing and the reconciliation of the world.

Which brings us back to the prayer. I had read it before our landmark day. Soon after I prayed it again. It was then that I realized it is not just about what we do each day in the world. It is about who we are, which is, yes, the engine for what we do. As a Christian community of faith—as Hanover Presbyterian Church—we are people of courage, compassion, and generosity who give, live, and love wherever we are, at whatever the cost, for as long as it takes.

Let this be the message in this landmark. Even if we cannot experience the joy as deeply because of the state of the world, let us nonetheless be filled with the joy of knowing who we are; for it is who we have always been, and who we will forever be. Yes, this prayer reminds us what to do in these days of pandemic. Even more, it reminds us who we are called to be, not just in times of crisis, but for all time.

Just as the gifts we have received are a blessing for us, so may they become a blessing for all of God's children. May all we do be a reflection of who we are.

Peace, Andy

MUSIC MATTERS

We gratefully thank those who have shared their musical talents in preparing our recorded worship services: Eloise Downing, Chris Garrett, Amy Harris, David Harris, Chris Jacob, Jonathan Jacob, Bill Tudor, Lorie Tudor, and Pastor Andy. These services, and especially during Holy Week, have given such comfort and inspiration to our Hanover members as well as being shared with friends and family. We

FINANCE REPORT

The Finance Committee and the members of Session are grateful for the support from our Hanover members and friends. The Session met (virtually) the evening of April 21st. In the Treasurer's finance report through March 2020, Hanover received \$69,078 in pledged and unpledged giving, which is 34 percent of the budgeted amount at 25 percent of the year. We also continue to receive gifts for our capital campaign, and as of the end of March received \$118,408 in gifts. Combined with the \$20,000 from Hanover that is \$138,408 of the pledged amount of \$147,740. Great news!

In the category of more good news to share, Hanover was approved for the loan from the federal CARES Act payment protection plan. Hanover qualified for \$38,995 loan at 1 percent interest, and the loan can be forgiven, if we document that 75 percent of the amount is spent for payroll. This loan application was approved by Session, as was the transfer of \$70,000 from the Fidelity account into the Hanover checking account to cover the final bills for the air conditioning installation. The Finance Committee will be meeting again on May 4 so please do not hesitate to get in touch, if you have questions or concerns.

Once again, we acknowledge the profound disruption in our lives, along with heartbreak and worry. There are moments of joy and thanksgiving too, and we are comforted and encouraged by our Hanover connections.—Ellen Casson,
Finance Chair

truly appreciate you, and especially during this time.

We are faithfully waiting for the day that we can gather safely again – I can guarantee you we will have the most joyous of celebrations on that Sunday! It will be an endless Alleluia, and . . .

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

What Lies Ahead?

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of safety. We have been recording the services on Fridays and posting them on Saturday evening. As we are using the church's Joys and Concerns email list, please contact us if you would like to receive the services and are not on that list.

We continue to receive positive responses to the services and the number of YouTube "visits" confirms that many folks outside of the Hanover circle are viewing them (a high of 230 for the Palm Sunday service—everybody loves Daphne!).

Many of our committees and the Deacons and Session continue to meet using Zoom. As we now have an account, if you are interested in setting up a meeting for anything church related, get in touch with Twyla or me. If you do not have internet access or a computer with a camera you can still participate using a phone. It is free and we have incorporated all the suggested safeguards to protect the privacy of all participants. What a joy it has been to be with our youth every Sunday at 1 p.m. on Zoom as we continue to make plans and stay connected!

Since it's in your hand or on your screen, you know that we continue to produce the monthly Herald newsletter and the weekly Flash electronic mailing. Using all these means, please let us know of any prayer requests and we will get them out so the grace of God would flow into the world through our prayers.

One new offering is a weekly Zoom gathering on Wednesdays from 5:30-6:30, called Coping with Covid-19. We offer it as a forum to gather and share our experiences of the journey through the coronavirus wilderness, and to reflect spiritually on these troubled times. *[Read more about that elsewhere on this page.]*

Most of all, know that we are no less available than before; in fact, we are even more ready to respond. If you have any questions, issues, or needs please reach out to your deacons, elders, and staff. Together, we serve, and together, we shall overcome.

Peace, *Andy*



Construction: One Project Ending, Others Set to Go

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ends, but the vast majority of the work and expense is behind us. Herman Pulliam, Bill Tudor, and Tim Arnold are still able to walk, after being on their knees for several hours putting their own sweat equity into installing the floor.

And if that is not enough, as you may have read in the Hanover Flash, the JSC and Hanover have enough funds in hand and promised from foundations, to proceed with the accessible restrooms and Food Pantry renovation project in the Gathering Place, and to begin the installation of a sprinkler system in the gym and a new fire safety panel and warning system. We have asked the architect who put the con-

struction plan together for the restrooms and food pantry renovation to evaluate the bids from contractors and guide us through that decision process. We will be meeting with Bear Industries next week to go over that sprinkler plan for the gym, which will begin in May.

We are excited and nervous at the same time. Challenges are ahead of us, but we feel we are ready to meet them. We are also conscious of the difficult time we are in, as so many people and businesses are suffering from the impact of the coronavirus. We will proceed with caution and concern for others and with hope for a positive outcome and a celebration in the not too distant future. — *The Gathering Place Group*

Coping with Covid-19 . . . an Online Discussion

why we talk with God...
In our ongoing effort to stay connected and extend support to one another, we have scheduled a weekly Zoom meeting every Wednesday from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. If you do not have internet connection, you can also call in on a telephone. If you are interested in being on the list of folks who are notified each week, send me a message that has your email or phone number.

Each week there will be a subject, topic, issue or question to spark conversations that address our shared situation. Next Wednesday we'll talk about how, when, where, and

For you, O Lord, are good and forgiving, abounding in steadfast love to all who call on you.

Give ear, O Lord, to my prayer; listen to my cry of supplication.

In the day of my trouble I call on you, for you will answer me.

—Psalm 86:5-7

How has your prayer life changed during the pandemic?

Praise God for a safe space to learn and grow together—even in the midst of crisis.

Peace, *Andy*

DEACON'S CORNER

This year, each Deacon is going to take a turn at highlighting members of their Care Group. This month, Caroline Klawitter interviews Susie Watson.

Born in Chester County Hospital and raised in Kennett Square, Pa., Susie Watson took home economics in high school and learned to sew.

Moving to Wilmington in 1959, she married and raised four children, Nathan, Trudy, Cary, and Orrin. Returning home from church camp, their father found a box turtle alongside the road, and asked the children if they wanted it. Of course they did. But it was Nathan who took charge of "Turt's" care, and taught the turtle to eat out of his hand, and to use the newspapers on the kitchen floor to do its business. Later Nathan went to school in Oklahoma, and stayed there until he died in 2015. Turt stayed with the family for over 20 years.

Fun fact: turtles hibernate in winter for 2-4 months. Turt's favorite place to hide was a closet. Yet other times he could be found downstairs between the washer and dryer, sunbathing and stretched out in front of a basement window enjoying the sun.

Trudy retired from Christiana Care Health System, but just wasn't ready to stay at home. So she became a Home Health Care Worker for 5 years until her knees gave out. That's when she took up quilting. Susie remembered seeing a large sign outside the Claymore Senior Center, offering lessons on Wednesdays, 10-2. She'd already bought lots of books on the subject of quilting, and so called the center to see if classes were still being offered. It was 2008 and the center's director said it was now more like a group of quilters who shared their knowledge with new members. "Come on down" was what Susie heard and she did, where she met Esther who upon learning that Susie had sewn in high school, said she'd be a perfect candidate to quilt.

Susie has made quilts on her own and with the Claymore Senior Center group. For the annual Christmas party at the center, the quilting group makes a quilt that is raffled off. Several members, including Susie, drive south to Middletown and join the Bethesda United Methodist Church in February, to make quilted sleeping bags for the homeless. The bags' inner batting layers are made from recycled bath towels, sheets, and mattress pads. Donated men's ties are also used; two are sewn to each bag. They're used to tie the bag together once it's been rolled up with a hat, scarf, socks, bar of soap, and copy of *Our Daily Bread* placed inside. The goal is to have 50 bags made by late September/early October which are then delivered to the Sunday Breakfast Mission here in Wilmington.

Her favorite subject to quilt? "Turtles!" The quilt on Susie's sofa is made from various shades of green, and shapes of turtles. Friends have given her pins of turtles as gifts. She has at least 40 and tries to wear a different one each Sunday at Hanover. Susie says "the pins are not meant to stay in my jewelry box." Susie has ceramic turtles and lamps in the shape of turtles. She even has turtle clocks; one from Italy was a gift from a granddaughter.

While home during the virus lockdown, Susie has gone through her stash, and cut enough fabric in different colors to make a twin-size quilt. However, she needs the larger table at the Center to lay it out before sewing it together. But she's also making a Sunbonnet Sue quilt in various shades of purple for a great-granddaughter's birthday in May.

CALENDAR

Weekly

Prayer Circle, 8:30 a.m., Mondays
High Noon at Hanover, 12 p.m.,
Wednesdays

Living with Covid-19, 5:30 p.m.,
Wednesdays

Food Pantry, 8 a.m., Thursdays

Zoom Meetings and Events

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

JSC Board meeting, 7 p.m., Tues-
day, May 5

From Surviving to Thriving, 7 p.m.,
Thursday, May 7

Invitational Team, 4:30 p.m., Mon-
day, May 11

Worship Committee meeting, 1:15
p.m., Tuesday, May 12

Faith in Action, 5:30 p.m., Thurs-
day, May 14

Session meeting, 7 p.m., Tuesday,
May 19

Important Dates

Summer Worship Schedule, Sun-
day, May 24—10 a.m. Worship

June Herald article deadline,
Thursday, May 28

May Birthdays

- 1 Herman Pulliam
- 3 B.J. Kennedy
- 4 Karen Hudson
Jane Putscher
- 5 Del Boulden
- 6 Sanet Van Rooyen
- 9 Bill Klawitter
- 10 Ralph Headley
- 13 Kathryn Thompson
- 14 Carl Nieberle
- 16 Marc Pulliam
- 19 Russ Buckley
- 21 Nancy Bayard
Mary Davis
Jonathan Jacob
- 22 Tommy Tucker
- 26 Dessa Hattenfield
Katie Leep
- 27 Eloise Downing
Miranda Garrett
- 30 Ali Anderson
Betty Bayard
- 31 Lorie Tudor

Summer Worship Moves to 10 a.m. on May 24*

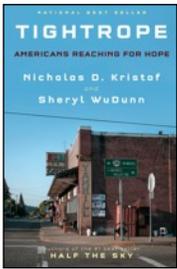
** If we're open for services at 18th and Baynard, of course.*

Bored At Home? Read a Good Book

Looking for something to do while you're stuck at home? How about reading the upcoming selections for the Hanover Book Group. Assuming we can gather by June 7, we will be discussing *Tightrope: Americans Reaching for Hope* by Pulitzer Prize-winning authors Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn.

The book addresses the crisis in working-class America and is told through the lives of real Americans. It focuses on solutions to mend a half century of governmental failure.

Tightrope draws us deep into an "other America." The authors tell



this story, in part, through the lives of some of the children with whom Kristof grew up in rural Oregon, an area that has been devastated in the last few decades as blue-collar jobs disappeared. About

one-quarter of the children on Kristof's old school bus died in adulthood from drugs, alcohol, suicide, or reckless accidents. And similar stories are found in many places the authors write about.

But here too are stories about resurgence, among them: Annette Dove, who has devoted her life to helping the teenagers of Pine Bluff, Ark., as they navigate the chaotic reality of growing up poor; Daniel McDowell, of Baltimore, whose tale of opioid addiction and recovery suggests that there are ways to solve our nation's drug epidemic.

On Oct. 4 we will be discussing, *Holy Envy*, by Barbara Brown Taylor as part of the Peace Week Celebration, opening our discussion to others in the Peace Week community.

Having left the clergy, Ms. Taylor recounts how she found the sacred in unexpected places while teaching the world's religions to undergraduates in rural Georgia.

She weaves together stories from the classroom with reflections on how her own spiritual journey has been renewed by connecting with people of other traditions whose truths are quite different from hers.



Prayer Request: Say a little prayer for the continued health and safety of the staff at Open Arms Academy – they are a dedicated team!

The Food Pantry Keeps on Going!

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laneous items thanks to that store. A generous family in the neighborhood has donated peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, granola bars and juice boxes each week to add to our boxes.

Our clients leave with a smile and a heartfelt thank you to us. We have been averaging 40 families each week. Thanks to all of you Hanover members for your support of our Food Pantry not only now but for the 30-plus years we have been in the business of showing our com-

munity that Hanover cares!

If you can donate items, please call the church office at 658-5114 to arrange a time to drop them off.

To give on line, go to our website at www.hanoverchurch.org and scroll down to the bottom of the screen and you will see Online Giving. Click on the yellow highlighted word Donate. The next screen asks you if you are using a credit card or PayPal. Then follow the prompts—just make sure to write in the Note section that your donation is for the Food Pantry.—Becky Arnold

What the Food Pantry Needs:

Canned fruits, canned vegetables, tuna, peanut butter, rice and spaghetti sauce

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

HANOVER NEWS & NOTES

Mother's Day Request

For our May 10 worship service, we have planned a special day of talking about mothers, and you're invited to participate! We would love to have you send us a recorded message of you talking about a special mother or person in your life who has been a "mother" to you.

If you have a smart phone, it's easy. Simply record yourself speaking or have a friend or family member record you. The recording needs to be under 2 minutes long so that it can be sent by email. Tell us who you would like to lift up, what they have meant to you, etc. Then save your recording, attach it to an email, and send it to the church office at: churchadmin@hanoverchurch.org. We'll take it from there! Please call the office at 658-5114 if you have any questions.

Family Promise Update

Last month I wrote an article about Family Promise, and asking for a volunteer to take on the role of co-coordinator from Hanover. Well, the call has been answered—Marti Yates has happily agreed to take it. Marti and I spoke at length about what the role entails, and she is definitely up for it. She brings her own experiences with working in food pantries and clothing closets and

will be a wonderful addition to the Family Promise group. It gives me great peace to know that she has been willing to step up as I transition to retired life in Connecticut. Thank you, Marti, and welcome to Family Promise!—*Chris Garrett*

Still Time for Sharing

During this time of isolation and separation, Faith in Action is asking you to remember being in community through giving to the One Great Hour of Sharing special offering. Your gift will help people in three ways: the Presbyterian Hunger Program, Self-Development of the People and Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

This year there are several ways to make a donation. You may still mail or deliver your check with OGHSA on your memo line to Hanover. You may bring your donation to the church office or put it in the mail box on the outer door at the Open Arms Academy/ church office door. Or, you may donate online via the donation page for PCUSA: specialofferings.pcusa.org/make-a-gift/-info/oghs/.

The web form lets you enter our church's name so that Hanover receives credit for your donation. Donations will be accepted into May due to the suspension of services. Thank you for your generosity!

Please Remember Your Pledge . . .

The work of Christ is going strong at Hanover, and we are relying on your pledges to keep us running smoothly.

Here are the ways that you can continue to give:

Mail: Send your check to: Hanover Presbyterian Church, 1801 N. Jefferson Street, Wilmington, DE 19802.

Drop-off: You can go to the Jefferson Street Open Arms Academy/Church Office entrance and put your envelope inside the gray mailbox on the left door. It is safe and secure there, and Herman and Twyla picks up the mail.

Drop-off in person: If you want to hand your check to the office in person, just call the office at 658-5114, and we'll arrange a time to be there to greet you.

And perhaps easiest of all...

On line: Go to our website: www.hanoverchurch.org—scroll down to the bottom of the screen and you will see Online Giving. Click on the yellow highlighted word Donate. The next screen asks you if you are using a credit card or PayPal. Then follow the prompts—make sure you write in the Note section where your money is to go. Thank you for sustaining our ministries.