

Hanover The HERALD

Hanover Presbyterian Church
Wilmington, Delaware

November 2020

In everything do to others as you would have them do to you...
Matthew 7:12

It is true: you get what you ask for. Two nights ago, I wanted to hear the latest news about our city, country, and world, so I turned on the nightly news. Well, I got exactly what I asked for: an illustration about where [some] people are as we continue to combat a worldwide pandemic.

About halfway through the newscast there was a story about a large group of people protesting a store's requirement to wear a mask in the effort to protect customers from the covid-19 virus. A part of the spectacle was a mask burning. The network offered a brief take from one of the protesters who, with rising smoke behind her, said, "The government has no right to make we wear a mask."

Really?

I don't know about that woman, but when I was 16, I had to study a manual and pass both a written and road test to get a license to drive a car. On top of that, I will pay a hefty fine if I get caught while not wearing a seat belt. The government has made these measures mandatory in the effort to save lives.

By April 15 of every year the government says I must file returns and pay taxes. Because it is mandatory, we have schools, roads, first responders, museums, garbage collection, police protection...you get the pointed picture.

When I go fishing in our canoe the government requires that I have a license, and they tightly restrict what fish I can keep. Not only that, it is the law that I must wear a PFD (personal flotation device). Do you know how hard it is to cast a spinning rod with three inches of foam covering your torso? How dare they care whether I drown, after all, that's my right!

Nearly every day I drive by the construction site at Wilmington Hospital where they are building a new parking garage. Large colorful signs make it noticeably clear: by law, hardhats are required on the site. That's nonsense...what are the chances a worker will drop a hammer from the fourth floor, and it will land on my head?

And every time I take a flight, the law, written by the government, says I must remove my shoes and belt, empty my pockets, open my briefcase, and walk through a detection device. The government has no right to make me take off my shoes!!

This could go on for pages, but I trust the point is clear. It is not only the government's right, but its responsibility, to do everything in its power to protect its citizens. And, yes, absolutely, and Amen there are times when the measures needed to protect the whole body will infringe on the rights of a given part of that body.

My friends, this is what it means - and what is required - to live in this elusive entity called community. If we are to live anywhere but alone on an island, we must make personal concessions and sacrifices for what is appropriately called the greater/common good.

I harbor not a single doubt that were Jesus to come to Wilmington today, he would come wearing a mask. As one who made the ultimate sacrifice by giving his own life for the common good, he would not be wearing it for his own security; he would be wearing a mask in obedience to his own command: that we *love our neighbors as ourselves*.

(continued on page 7)





The Inquisitive Intern

by
Sara Snowden



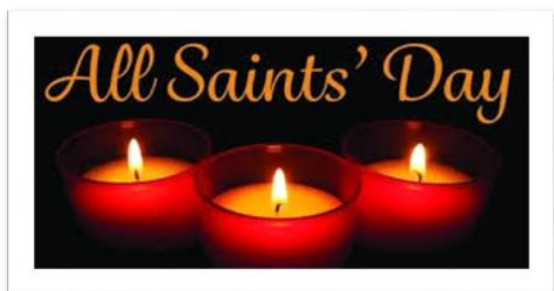
By the time you read this, Daylight Savings Time will have ended and the clocks will have 'fallen back' one hour. After months of warm, sunny days pulling us outside, the darker, colder winter months seem to loom ahead. Don't get me wrong, fall in the Brandywine Valley is glorious as the crisp air blows the leaves around. But the winter's cold and gray days seem to last a little too long. And in a time when large indoor gatherings are not safe, this winter calls for us to be a little more creative as we plan activities.

In her book, *Learning to Walk in the Dark*, Barbara Brown Taylor explores the concept of darkness through her experiences in a variety of settings. In addition to discussing physical darkness, Taylor also explores mental and emotional darkness. One of her adventures takes her spelunking in Organ Cave in West Virginia. Accompanied by two guides, Taylor experiences sitting in complete darkness far below the ground. While there, she realizes in a deeper way that "new life starts in the dark. Whether it is a seed in the ground, a baby in the womb, or Jesus in the tomb, it starts in the dark."

Between election turmoil, racial injustice, and increases in Covid-19 infection rates, there is darkness all around us. And, yet, we see glimpses of new life emerging—in higher voting numbers, in greater numbers of white Americans recognizing and working to dismantle the systemic racism that is part of this country's framework, and in new scientific advancements made toward understanding how the coronavirus is spread. There is still a lot more work to be done, but we can find hope in the new life forming in the darkness.

In *A Brief Statement of Faith*, Presbyterians proclaim, "We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life... In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of people long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace."

The darkness can be frightening, but it is not the end of the story. The seed breaks through the soil, the baby is born into the world, and Jesus emerges from the tomb. And so, may you be energized and hope-filled by the new life emerging through you and through Hanover.



As we do each year on **All Saints Sunday (Sunday, November 1)**, we'll remember our Hanover Saints who have passed into Risen Life over the past year. During the recorded service, there will be reflection time to remember all our loved ones who have passed. You're invited to have a candle ready to light during this part of the service or have your loved ones' pictures or other mementos to focus on as we hold them and each other in our prayers that day.

Community Sunday

Our Community Sunday Intergenerational Discipleship experience returns **this Sunday, November 1 at 9:30 a.m.** on Zoom. In recognition of All Saints' Sunday, we will read [A Little Blue Bottle](#) by Jennifer Grant, a tender story of loss, faith, and love. It is a beautiful tale for people of all ages who are experiencing grief, past and present. This book just came out in September 2020, in the midst of the pandemic, during a time of much loss and sorrow. Another poignant tie-in with our Community Sundays is that this book celebrates intergenerational friendships. Young and young at heart are invited to log on to our gathering this Sunday, November 1. Pastor Andy will be sending the link out on Saturday evening along with the Sunday worship and Fellowship Hour links.



*"You keep track of all my sorrows.
You have collected all my tears in your bottle.
You have recorded each one in your book."
~Psalm 56:8*

Book Review: *This book is not just for children; it is for all who are coping with loss. There is a wonderful 'space' in this book, to be stepped into on every page, a place where questions are not answered, and grief is not placated, but where there is room to allow the reader to simply grieve.*

~ Glenys Nellist, review from Goodreads



Dear Hanover Saints,

As with so many aspects of our lives, the coronavirus pandemic affects how we'll conduct our annual Congregational Meeting & Elections this year. Instead of gathering in person, Hanover members will receive the meeting materials & ballots by first-class mail and email. You can choose whichever format is easier for you to use when voting and returning your ballot.

The meeting materials will go out on Nov. 18 and will include: cover letter with instructions; brief biographies of nominees for Elders, Deacons & Nominating Committee; the 2021 Pastor's Terms of Call, a summary of the 2021 Church Budget; instructions for voting; and the ballot. Please return your ballot by **Tue., Dec. 1, 2020.**

Zoom Gathering – Dec. 6 – 10:30 a.m. – Instead of a Zoom fellowship hour, there'll be a Zoom gathering time for questions, comments, etc. The Pastor, Clerk and Representatives from the Finance, Personnel & Nominating Committees will participate in the Zoom gathering.

Ordination/Installation – Dec. 13 – Since we can't gather in person, we will follow PC(USA) guidelines for a virtual ordination/installation ceremony during our videotaped worship service on Dec. 13.

So, please look for the Nov. 18th mailing explaining our "adapted" Congregational Meeting procedure. Thank you!

Eloise Downing, Clerk of Session



Members Profile: Tom & Sue Baker



NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

1	Heather Dorsey
3	Lawondale Parker
5	Kayla Kirylik
6	Denny Schreyer
6	Austin Wilson
16	Amber Simmons
19	Devin Pulliam
22	Kathryn Long
23	Lillian Grasty
26	Ralph Fortney
26	Jeanne Lewis
29	Sue Steeves

Tom and Sue are Wilmington natives. Tom was raised at Presbyterian Church of the Covenant while Sue was raised at McCabe Methodist Church. Tom is a graduate of UVA and received an MBA at UNC. Sue is an elementary education graduate of UD. They met at DuPont in the summer of 1961, married in 1963, and moved to NJ, where Tom was an accountant at the Parlin DuPont plant.

In 1966, they returned to Wilmington and joined the Church of the Covenant. They were advisors to the Senior High group and active in the tutoring program that Tom coordinated at Presbyterian Church of Our Savior. Sue was active in the Women's Association, and Tom was an advisor to the Explorer Troop.

In 1974, they joined West Church, and moved into the city in 1975. There they served as Elders and on various committees. Sue taught church school, sang in the choir, and was President of the Presbyterian Women. Tom was West's Treasurer for several years, and then Treasurer and later President of the Board of West Center City Senior Center, located at West. Sue was active on the committees that designed and rebuilt West after it was destroyed by a fire in 1993.

Tom and Sue joined Hanover in 2009 after West closed. Both have served as Elder. Sue sings in the choir and is on the Worship committee. Tom was Treasurer for a few years and worked on several maintenance projects, including Ed Wing prep before Open Arms moved in.

Tom retired from DuPont Finance in 1992. Following this he was accountant for the Delaware Community Foundation, and finally retiring as Finance Director for the Delaware Symphony. Oh, and later renovated five houses in the neighborhood. Sue aided and taught in the Lower School at Wilmington Friends. She then worked at Wanamaker's, and lastly retired as a teller from Wilmington Trust.

Sue is very active in the P.E.O, Sisterhood, a women's organization which supports women's higher education, and serving a term as President on the DE State Board. While they lived in the city, Tom was active in the TNA and served several terms as President. In 2016 they downsized and are now living in Windybush with their dog Sasha.

Tom and Sue are parents of Amy and Scott. Amy is a middle school teacher, married to Bill, and they have a son, Bobby. Scott lives in Florida and teaches yoga. Tom and Sue also had a daughter, Lynn, who died shortly after birth.

You can find Tom and Sue at Hanover every Tuesday that JB's Café is open!

Deacon Ray Kirkpatrick



"My friend and partner, James Brewer"—by *Becky Arnold*

Isn't it funny how some friendships start? James and I became friends over a tin of peanut butter cookies. One Thursday a new face appeared at the Food Pantry and as he was sitting waiting his turn, having a cup of coffee, and I went over to say hello. On first glance, he appeared a bit crotchety, and I wasn't sure if we would see him again. He was talking to another client and saying how he wished we would have some peanut butter cookies in our dessert selection. Well, we did not and I offered to bring him some the next time he was due to come. Four weeks later, much to his surprise, when he came in I had cookies waiting for him. He put great stock in people who were true to their word. If he said he was going to do something then it would get done. So the cookies sealed the deal for him and me. There began a mutual respect and friendship that would last years. The Food Pantry began to expand its program and we started offering breakfast. James just wandered into the kitchen and put on an apron. He became known for his eggs and potatoes. He never missed a week and our clients looked forward to seeing him behind the serving counter. Then there is the hot dog cart. He quickly fell in love with his job as "Chef James" and soon the cart was "his" (now to be known as JB's Café). He arrived at church to set up at 7 and by 9 his customers started coming. He even had his own staff – Tammy and Ruth were his faithful companions. Actually, James had a ministry all his own. When the weather was nice, he would sit on "his" bench across from Parkview Apts. and talk to people as they passed by or sat with him. He was a great listener and observer. He invited them to his cart and on Tuesdays, many showed up. When he was going through his rounds of chemotherapy at the Helen Graham Center, he would tell the doctors and nurses that he could be there any day but Tuesday or Thursdays because they were his working days, and he had promises to keep. Every Sunday morning he could be found in the Sunday School Hall having his cup of coffee and chatting with whoever happened to be there. Not long before he got to feeling really bad, he and I were talking, and he told me that so many people just assumed he was a member of Hanover. He said if he was ever going to join a church, Hanover was it for him and that maybe he should just "bite the bullet" and do the deed. He never got to do that deed, but I have no doubt that he would have. He felt at home at Hanover and so appreciated the friendships he had there. I think we could call him an "honorary" member for sure. Whenever we said good bye after a day of working I would say, "have a good day! He always replied "You have a better one!" As I said good bye to him at the hospital for the last time, I had to think that it was my turn to say to him – " I know you'll be having better ones soon! Thanks, James, for always having my back as my partner and my friend!



THANKSGIVING BASKETS Soon we'll be putting together 100 Thanksgiving baskets! All money donations this coming month will go towards the baskets. We can also use donations of canned vegetables, stuffing, cranberry sauce, etc. Your help is always appreciated!

STUDENT MASK DRIVE We are collecting masks for Tracey Lewis's school students - if you have any to donate, please contact the Church Office to set up a drop-off day and time. They can use both children and adult sizes, disposable and reusable. Please help her students stay safe.



If the Food Pantry could talk . . .

It's 10:30am on a Thursday morning. The Sunday School Hall is quiet once again. You see, if it's Thursday, then it is Food Pantry day, and this is a pretty hopping place from 7-10. Actually, a lot goes on here on the days leading up to Thursday that not many people are aware of. It takes a week to get ready for these few hours. Let me tell you about it.

"The week" starts on Saturday morning with a trip to Giant on 202. Giant has been a terrific partner of ours for several years now. They give us lots of bread and desserts as well as other canned and frozen items. It's a red-letter day when we get frozen meat or ice cream! Whatever we get is brought back to Hanover and put in the refrigerator or freezer. Once or twice on Sundays we get food from Westminster or Concord churches that is delivered and then brought into the Social Hall to be sorted out. Monday is another trip to Giant for more donations from them. That is also the day for going to Sav-a-Lot in Claymont to pick up canned goods, meat and eggs. Many of your donations go to helping to purchase these items. Sometimes we stop by HyPoint Dairy when they have cheese, yogurt or creamers to donate. Tuesday is a quiet day because enough ruckus is caused by the Sidewalk Café. Wednesday is Produce Junction day when a car full of cases of vegetables and fruits are purchased for Thursday's distribution.

Then comes Thursday—the day starts at 7am when several volunteers arrive to help set up. At 8 we are ready to welcome our masked shoppers one at a time into the Hall to "shop." It is such a pleasure to be able to provide food to so many families and individuals. By 10 we have usually reached our maximum number of clients for the day (35-40 families.) Our tables are depleted, and the produce is gone. While we are managing nicely here in the Sunday School Hall, we are certainly excited and looking forward to our move back downstairs to the redone Gathering Place and our new quarters. For now, though, it's business as usual and time to start thinking about what is needed for next week!



JB's Café (formerly known as the Hot Dog Cart) has been doing a brisk business this summer and now that the days are getting cooler, we are beginning to think about Souper Tuesdays. We're not sure when we will be open for business in the Gathering Place, but we are thinking about doing take out service, with a bit more than hot dogs for sale. Soup, sandwiches and salads will be the offering of the day. We will begin in November (*exact date to be announced.*)

REMINDER: LOOKING FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE ENSLEN SCHOLARSHIP

One \$1000 Enslin Scholarship will be awarded to a student in a post-graduate program leading to a degree or professional certification in an area that will improve the lives of others. Applications will be available on November 1st with a closing date of December 15th. The award decision will be made by January 15th. The short application will be posted on the Female Harmony Society Website or available by contacting Maggie Alexander, (MaggieA10@verizon.net, or 302-521-6611.) Please let any relatives or friends who might be eligible know about this opportunity.

Stewardship Sunday

November 15, 2020

We will dedicate pledges during our virtual worship service.

A letter with details of the pledging campaign for 2021 will soon arrive by mail.

Remember, pledges can be offered at any time, and may always be adjusted as necessary during the year as circumstances change.

sharing the gifts we have been given

Important Information on our Church Finances

Per Capita *So what's the big deal?*

Per Capita is an apportionment per member that we pay to the PC(USA) in support of higher judicatories. Hanover budgets for this. We ask members to pay the \$30 if they are able – aside from regular giving. When that happens this “extra” amount goes to support additional ministry and mission activities.

Continuing to Give . . .

The work of Christ is going strong at Hanover, and we are relying on your pledges to keep us running smoothly, especially during this uncertain times. Here are the ways that you can continue to give:

Mail: 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. If you prefer to hand it to a person, the Church Office is open Monday—Thursday from 9am—5pm.

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

Thank you for supporting all of the ministries here at Hanover and in our community.

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What is most distressing about this perspective is it assumes the worst about government: that its very purpose and greatest desire is to limit, control, and dictate our lives. Like all organizations and institutions, the government is comprised of individuals. Yes, the unintended consequences of government actions are often tragic. But to assume that the people who spend their lives serving this country through its governmental institutions are in some way nefarious is not only insulting, but reprehensible.

Yes, individual government employees transgress, no more than individual doctors, police officers, teachers, coaches, and, indeed, pastors.

I know many people who serve the people through secular, governmental institutions. So many are devout Christians who have answered the call to use their gifts in the service of the common good. I know many who labor tirelessly to create legislation and policies that protect us all, and do so based in their deep faith convictions about the divine spark in every child of God. And I know many who spend their lives enforcing the laws designed to protect us all.

You know them too. Out of respect for their privacy, I will refrain from naming folks in the Hanover community who have, and are, devoting their work lives to pursue the common good through public and governmental agencies. They too are our neighbors...deserving to be loved no less than we seek to be loved.

May God bless us in these contentious days; that we would see over, above, and beyond vocational and political titles, and honor the divine spark within them all.

Peace,
Andy





Weekly

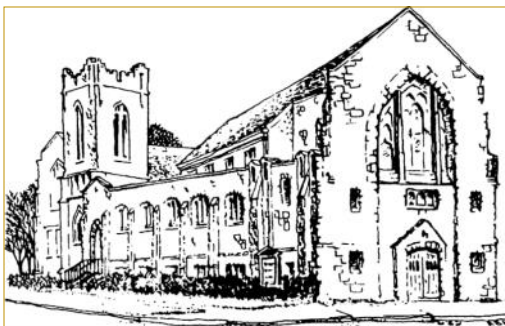
Prayer Circle—Mondays, 8:30 a.m.
 JB's Café—Tuesdays, 10 a.m.—1 p.m.
 High Noon at Hanover—Wednesdays, 12 p.m.
 Coping with Covid-19—Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.
 Food Pantry—Thursdays, 8 a.m.
 Yoga—Fridays, 6:15 p.m.
 Virtual Worship Service—Sundays, 10 a.m.
 (available on Sunday evenings)
 Zoom Fellowship Hour—Sundays, 10:30 a.m.

Zoom Committee Meetings and Events

Deacons: Tuesday, November 3, 5:45 p.m.
 JSC Board: Tuesday, November 4, 7:00 p.m.
 From Surviving to Thriving: Thursday, November 5, 7:00 p.m.
 Invitational Team: Monday, November 9, 4:30 p.m.
 Worship Committee: Tuesday, November 10, 1:15 p.m.
 Internship Lay Committee: Wednesday, November 11, 1 p.m.
 Faith in Action: Thursday, November 12, 5:30 p.m.
 Session: Tuesday, November 17, 7:00 p.m.
 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, Tuesday, November 24
 (recorded service will be sent out)
 Special Food Pantry, Wednesday, November 25, 8-10 a.m.
 December *Herald* article deadline: Wednesday, November 25



O God of harvest and bounty and love:
 We thank Thee for food and remember the hungry.
 We thank Thee for health and remember the sick.
 We thank Thee for friends and remember the friendless.
 We thank Thee for freedom and remember the enslaved.
 May these remembrances stir us to service.
 That your gifts to us may be used for others.
 Amen.



Hanover Street Presbyterian Church

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