

# Hanover The HERALD

Hanover Presbyterian Church  
Wilmington, Delaware

December 2020

*Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David...*

Luke 2:4

*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 8:38-39

Poughkeepsie, NY

Middlesex, NJ

Westfield, NJ

Williamsburg, VA

Brunswick, ME

Chicago, IL

Detroit, MI

Cleveland, OH

Houston, TX

And now, possibly for the first time: Wilmington, DE

I have spent Christmas in many places. On my first Christmas I was eleven days old and my manger was in a college dormitory. After celebrating that first Christmas with the ones who gave me life, I have been blessed each year to share the day of Nativity with ones who have sustained me on my life journey. When it comes to our most special days, where we are tells the story of who we are. In a very real way, the record of our holiday journeys tells the story of our life journey.

We will never know where Jesus celebrated his birthday in the years after his birth. But we do know this: the ones who gathered at his birth were strangers who wandered in from the fields after being summoned by angels. He and his parents were separated from the ones who sustained them on their life journey. Even if we don't know where Jesus spent the rest of his birthdays, we can be assured it would tell the story of his journey, and reveal who he was.

And so it is with us. As we make our Advent journey to the stable this year, take a moment and think about the map of your life that is revealed by where you have been on previous Christmas days. When you read and follow that map, I promise you will receive insight into not only where you were, but who you are.

Like the rest of 2020, Christmas will be very different this year. For many of us, travel restrictions imposed because of the pandemic will limit, or even erase, our choices about with whom we spend the holiday. For the Holy -Jacob family, this may mean spending Christmas in Wilmington for the first time in our family's journey. This year we will have a sense of how it feels when we're told there is no room left in the inn.

Yes, there will be disappointment this Christmas. We will have to work harder to create and find meaning in our high holy day. The sense of comfort created when with loved ones will be challenged by feelings of isolation and separation. The joy of giving and receiving will be compromised. And yet...

Just as there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus – so too there is nothing that can separate us from the love of the ones with whom we share our life journey.

Hanover saints: perhaps more than any other year, may where we are this Christmas be the next compelling chapter in the story of our life journey. Even more, may the ones with whom we share the birth of Christ remind us of who we are. And may our celebration of His birth be the assurance of God's love for us – even - if not especially - from a distance.

Peace,  
Andy





## The Inquisitive Intern

by  
Sara Snowden

*What do you learn about in seminary?* This is a common question when I tell people I am a student. If you, too, are curious about what happens in seminary, here's a glimpse into the world of a seminarian in her final year:

On Tuesday mornings I am immersed in the diversity of Christian understanding in a course called Living Christian Movements. This is a continuation of a course I took last spring in which we examined the beliefs and practices in the Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Reformed (including Presbyterian), and Anabaptist churches. In this current class, we will study Methodism, Unitarian-Universalism, Pentecostalism, African-American Christianity, and the churches in Africa and Asia referred to as the "emerging church." We hear from current leaders in each tradition as we explore the many different visions of Christianity and the ways in which history and local culture influences Christian faith and mission. This fascinating exploration of the many visions and practices found in Christianity involves approximately 200 pages of reading each week and 4-page essays every other week. The final project will be a 20-page paper exploring the ways in which my personal beliefs align and diverge from the various traditions we explore.

On Wednesday mornings I am tapping into a new way of expressing, witnessing, and interpreting in a course called Christianity and the Arts. This class combines skills in formal art analysis, art interpretation, creativity in word and image, and theological dispositions. It is very different from any other course I have taken and I enjoy the opportunity to switch gears in my brain. The final project will involve telling a story through photographs or video. I will likely use some of the skills in this class with my work at Hanover and beyond as churches continue to delve into the realm of online worship experiences.

On Wednesday afternoons I switch back to purely academic mode in a private tutorial on Reformed Theology taught by Dr. Lee Barrett, who is well-known and respected in the world of theology. I am a theology nerd and truly appreciate the opportunity to explore how the beliefs I consider so foundational to my being are actually part of the broader category known as the Reformed Tradition. This class is required by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for those who want to be ordained. It also helps to prepare for the required PC(USA) theology ordination exam I will take in January 2021. I read approximately 150 pages per week for this class and write 4-page essays weekly.

On Thursday afternoons I am taking an elective course on interfaith leadership. I chose this course because I believe it is crucial that we learn the skills necessary to build bridges in our increasingly diverse world. As you might expect in a leadership course, one of the requirements is to design and lead one 60-minute discussion on an aspect of our learning. We read about 70 pages each week and the final project for this class is a 6-page paper in which we develop and explore our theology of interfaith cooperation.

Many occupations involve specialized training and formal education. What were you surprised to see included in your required coursework? Which electives inspired you the most?

Share your thoughts with me: [sksnowden@lancasterseminary.edu](mailto:sksnowden@lancasterseminary.edu).



## CHURCH BUSINESS IN ADVENT

**ZOOM Congregational Meeting – Sunday, December 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 of Officers – Sunday, December 13** – we'll have a virtual ordination/installation ceremony for our Deacons and Session members during our videotaped worship service.

## ADVENT WREATHS AT HOME

In the ancient world, various peoples lit fires to mark the turning of the light into winter's season and to pray for the return of the light. Christians continue that practice through the lighting of the Advent wreath. To us, these candles are signs of the growing light of Christ who is coming again in all fullness into the darkness of our world. Until the dawning of that Great Day, we watch and wait in Holy Spirit for Christ's coming into the darkness of our world, lighting candles of hope, peace, joy, and love; and remembering the promises of God with prayer.



Each Sunday, beginning November 29 through December 20, and also on Christmas Eve, the online worship services will include a time for lighting the candles on the Advent wreath. While we are not able to share in that tradition in person, you may choose to create an Advent wreath at home so that you, too, can add to the light of the world at home.

To create your own Advent wreath, you will need:

- 1 larger candle for the Christ candle (traditionally white)
- 4 smaller candles (traditionally 3 blue or purple and 1 pink)
- Candle holders for each candle, if needed
- A plate or platter to put the candles on to keep them together

While a quick tour of the internet can provide ideas for elaborate wreath designs, one made with supplies at hand can make a meaningful addition to your own home this Advent. Tradition is nice, but in a year when resources may be tight, candles in multiple colors are not necessary. A wreath made with four tea lights and one larger pillar candle for the Christ candle can be just as meaningful and beautiful as any elaborate set-up. Battery-operated candles are a good option for those who are concerned about lighting candles.



## ADVENT SOUP SUPPERS

Discipleship will be holding our Advent supper and study series via Zoom on Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m. Since we can't gather in person this year, we thought it would be fun to provide 2 soup recipes each week in THE FLASH for people to try making at home. Our time together via Zoom, around our dinner tables, is a way to stay connected as we all await the coming of the Christ child.

This year's study is based on the book [All the Earth is Waiting](#) by Katie Dawson. Our seminary intern, Sara Snowden, will be helping to lead this year's advent study time together. We are excited to have Sara participate in this Hanover Advent tradition.

Please send your soup recipes to Nancy Long at [j2nlong@comcast.net](mailto:j2nlong@comcast.net) or Twyla in the office.



## CRECHE PHOTOS FOR OUR CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Do you have a special creche that you bring out every Christmas? Take a picture of it and send it via email to the Church Office—Tom Davis will put all of them together for a beautiful montage that will be shown at the close of our recorded Christmas Eve service. We're looking forward to seeing a great variety of creches!

*Your Faith in Action*



# Hanover UnGifts

Give the gift of a donation to an activity that makes a difference in the wider world.

### Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health

With nearly 40 years of collaboration with Native American tribes, the Center supports public health interventions in more than 140 tribal communities in over 20 states. These partnerships



have achieved public health break-throughs which are credited with saving millions of children's lives worldwide.



## STEHM

### *SUPPORTIVE TRANSITIONAL & EMERGENCY HOUSING MINISTRY*

The mission is two-fold: 1) at the Martha Houses I and II, it provides long-term transitional housing with the goal of independent living where it provides counseling and life skills training in a safe, supportive environment for women and women with children; and 2) through its motel ministry, it provides short-term emergency housing for needy or displaced persons.

## The Nature Conservancy

The Conservancy works with government agencies, private corporations, and conservation organizations, as well as with its members, to conserve the places on which people and wildlife depend. Since 1990, this has resulted in the conservation of more



than 30,000 acres across Delaware, and TNC owns more than 5,000 acres in six preserves in the state.



### **New Castle Presbytery Matthew 25 Action Committee**

Join MAC in creating Travel Kits for legal asylum seekers who are leaving detention in Pennsylvania and spend several days on the road before they get to where they will be living. MAC is working in cooperation with the Parish Resource Center in Lancaster. With \$40 they can to create kits tailored to meet individual needs. Also there is now a need for cell phones with either preloaded minutes or a compatible phone card.



## How to Participate in UnGifts 2020

We have four choices available this year. *(Due to a generous gift from The Food Distribution Grant from New Castle County the Food Pantry has sufficient funds and indicated that it did not need to be included in this year's selections.)* UnGifts has been a Hanover tradition since 2006. It enables you to give someone the "gift" of a donation to an activity that makes a difference in the wider world.

UnGifts can be purchased in two ways:

1) Our website: Go to: [www.hanoverchurch.org](http://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 Memo section to which Ungift organization(s) your money is to go.

2) By mail (send a check for the total amount to Hanover, and include a note with information on how much goes to each of your selections). We will send you inserts you can give to the person in whose honor you are giving the gift (let us know if you need multiple copies of one of the inserts).

Here are links to further information online if you are interested:

Nature Conservancy in Delaware

<https://www.nature.org/en-us/about-us/where-we-work/united-states/delaware/>

STEHM (SUPPORTIVE TRANSITIONAL & EMERGENCY HOUSING MINISTRY)

<http://www.stehm.org/>

Matthew 25 Action Committee and the Parish Resource Center

<https://parishresourcecenter.org/>

<https://mailchi.mp/ncpresbytery/great-is-thy-faithfulness?e=bbde6b2e7f>

Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health

<https://caih.jhu.edu/>

## 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](http://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.

## REMINDER: LOOKING FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE ENSLEN SCHOLARSHIP

One \$1000 Enslen 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 1<sup>st</sup> with a closing date of December 15<sup>th</sup>. The award decision will be made by January 15<sup>th</sup>. The short application will be posted on the Female Harmony Society Website or available by contacting Maggie Alexander @ [MaggieA10@verizon.net](mailto:MaggieA10@verizon.net) or 302-521-6611. Please let any relatives or friends who might be eligible know about this opportunity.



### DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

|    |                  |
|----|------------------|
| 5  | Lynn Gregory     |
| 5  | Alison Moore     |
| 7  | Marjorie McNeill |
| 8  | Cory Melvin      |
| 12 | Pat Hall         |
| 12 | Della Williams   |
| 12 | Taylor Zistl     |
| 13 | Lois Ford        |
| 14 | Andy Jacob       |
| 14 | Judy Van Rooyen  |
| 15 | Michael Carty    |
| 20 | Diane Dunham     |
| 22 | Peg Showalter    |
| 29 | Grant Evitts     |
| 29 | Bea Johnson      |

### Members Profile: Ralph Headley

Ralph Headley was born in Woodbury, New Jersey. He grew-up in New Jersey and later, Wilmington, DE. Ralph described his family as nice. He has a brother, Rick and a sister-in-law, Gail. His mother, Caroline, is still living and resides in Lancaster, PA.



While attending school, Ralph's favorite subject was reading. Ralph has been with Special Olympics for a long time, and keeps a large shoebox filled with the medals he has won. His events include swimming and bowling. And Ralph is quite the artist, taking great pleasure in coloring with crayons and/or colored pencils.

He said a friend invited him to Hanover, and he joined the congregation in 2009. Ralph really enjoys interacting with people and is involved in as many Hanover activities as he can be. He's a great asset at the annual Super Sale; he helps other volunteers and also customers with their large purchases. In our worship services Ralph helps with the candles, and because he is very tall, he also takes care of the Hymn Board numbers posted for the songs sung at those services.

Due to the pandemic, many of Ralph's activities have been curtailed. He looks forward to getting back to Hanover, Special Olympics, plus his job in the Wilmington Hospital. In the meantime, Ralph walks; either indoors along the halls of his apartment building or outdoors when he can. So when you see him, say "Hello." It'll make your day—for both of you.

*Deacon Carolyn Klawitter*

### Advent Activities

- ~ Make your own Advent wreath.
- ~ Collect food items for Reverse Advent calendar.
- ~ Send in a photo of your family creche.
- ~ Enjoy the weekly Advent Soup Study.
- ~ Purchase UnGifts.
- ~ Send Christmas cookie recipe(s) to Becky
- ~ Join us for our Festive Christmas Gathering!

### Calendar

- November 29—Advent 1 & Communion
- December 2—Advent Soup Study
- December 6—Advent 2 & Zoom Congregational Meeting
- December 9—Advent Soup Study
- December 13—Advent 3 & Ordination/Installation Officers
- December 16—Advent Soup Study
- December 20—Advent 4 & Festive Christmas Gathering with  
recorded brass quintet Christmas carols
- December 23—Advent Soup Study
- December 24—Christmas Eve
  - 6:30 p.m.—Christmas music with Gus Mercante, countertenor
  - 7:00 p.m.—pre-recorded Christmas Eve service



AT A  
GLANCE



**From the Food Pantry:** Bigger turkey day than ever! On Tuesday, Nov. 24 the Food Pantry distributed over 150 turkeys to families in our community. This is our tenth year of hosting this event. Each year we get better – practice really does get you nearer to perfect! Everyone cooperated and though it took a little longer due to Covid-19 precautions, the day went very smoothly. Thanks to all who donated food and money to help make this possible not only this year but in all the past years as well.

The Food Pantry is also going forward with plans to move back to The Gathering Place.

We will be taking the month of December to do a thorough cleaning of our new space so that on the first week of January we can welcome our clients into a new and spacious Food Pantry. We have enjoyed our time in the Sunday School Hall, but we can't wait to show off our new home!

On **Sunday, December 20**, join us for our **Festive Christmas Gathering** at **10:30 a.m.**, following our on-line worship service. We will be rejoicing in the fellowship of each other, sharing favorite Christmas memories, all with some wonderful recorded Christmas carols from a brass quintet featuring our own David Harris. Please plan on being together on that day.

Another successful hot dog season comes to an end. The hot dog cart served its last dog for the year and is taking a winter's nap. We look forward to coming back to life again next year when the temperatures start to mellow. Thanks to all of our faithful supporters who, even in times of Covid, came out with masks on to enjoy a meal in the sun with us. See you in the spring! Keep tuned to see when Souper Tuesdays will return in the new and improved Gathering Place!



Join us in a **"Reverse Advent Calendar"** this season— set aside the designated item each day in December, and by Christmas Eve you'll have a bounty of food staples that you can donate to our Food Pantry.

May God bless this food to bless those who need it.

- |    |   |    |                                |
|----|---|----|--------------------------------|
| 1  | soup (canned or shelf-stable)           | 13 | cranberry sauce                |
| 2  | canned meat                             | 14 | rice                           |
| 3  | canned vegetables                       | 15 | boxed potatoes                 |
| 4  | milk (shelf-stable, in a box)           | 16 | stuffing mix                   |
| 5  | tuna (canned or vacuum-packed)          | 17 | applesauce                     |
| 6  | peanut butter                           | 18 | soup (canned or shelf-stable)  |
| 7  | canned fruit                            | 19 | canned meat                    |
| 8  | milk (powdered, non-fat)                | 20 | canned vegetables              |
| 9  | easy-to-fix dishes (mac & cheese, etc.) | 21 | milk (shelf-stable, in a box)  |
| 10 | pasta                                   | 22 | tuna (canned or vacuum-packed) |
| 11 | spaghetti sauce                         | 23 | peanut butter                  |
| 12 | canned beans                            | 24 | canned fruit                   |



### From the Church Office:

~ The Church Office will be closed the week following Christmas, reopening on Monday, January 4. You can still reach both Pastor Andy and Twyla through email and phone.

~ We are still collecting pledge cards and congregational surveys—please contact us if you didn't receive one or need a replacement.

### Weekly

Prayer Circle—Mondays, 8:30 a.m.  
 High Noon at Hanover—Wednesdays, 12 p.m.  
 Advent Soup Study—Wednesdays, 5:45 p.m.  
 Food Pantry—Thursdays, 8 a.m.  
 Yoga—Fridays, 6:15 p.m.  
 Virtual Worship Service—Sundays, 10 a.m.  
 (available on Saturday evenings)  
 Zoom Fellowship Hour—Sundays, 10:30 a.m.

### Zoom Committee Meetings and Events

Deacons: Tuesday, December 1, 5:45 p.m.  
 JSC Board: Tuesday, December 1, 7:00 p.m.  
 From Surviving to Thriving: Thursday, December 3, 7:00 p.m.  
 Congregational Meeting: Sunday, December 6, 10:30 a.m.  
 Black History Month: Tuesday, December 8, 12:30 p.m.  
 Worship Committee: Tuesday, December 8, 2:00 p.m.  
 Internship Lay Committee: Wednesday, December 9, 1:00 p.m.  
 Faith in Action: Thursday, December 10, 5:30 p.m.  
 Invitational Team: Monday, December 14, 4:30 p.m.  
 Session: Tuesday, December 15, 7:00 p.m.  
 Special Food Pantry, Tuesday, December 22, 8-10 a.m.  
 Christmas Eve Service, Thursday, December 24  
 6:30 p.m.—Christmas music with Gus Mercante, countertenor  
 7:00 p.m.—recorded Christmas Eve service  
 December *Herald* article deadline: Thursday, December 31



The blessings of peace,  
 The beauty of hope,  
 The spirit of love,  
 The comfort of faith  
 May these be yours this season



### Hanover Street Presbyterian Church

Address: 1801 N. Jefferson Street  
 Wilmington, DE 19802  
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 Email: [office@hanoverchurch.org](mailto:office@hanoverchurch.org)  
 Pastor Andy email: [pastor@hanoverchurch.org](mailto:pastor@hanoverchurch.org)  
 Website: <http://www.hanoverchurch.org>  
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/HanoverPresbyterian/>