



**Hanover Presbyterian Church
Wilmington, Delaware**

January 2021

Dear Hanover Saints,

So, riddle me this... What is one thing you do every year that you dread? Not much of a clue – too many things fall in that category! When you do this thing you need cards and cash. You will likely have to sit and wait for the main event. It requires at least minimal disrobing, some level of discomfort, and total submission. If it goes well, you feel great; if it doesn't, you don't.

If you guessed your annual physical examination with your doctor, you win the cake your doctor will tell you not to eat. Consider this: as much as we dread being examined, the desire to know that we're healthy is deeper than the dread. In an annual examination the anxiety of "what if?" succumbs to the hope of "thank God!".

Checkups are about the past, the present, and the future. The state of our mind and body from the past are compared to the present so that we can move into our future better equipped to be and stay healthy. Regular checkups are productive, proactive, and preventative.

So this month I offer the results of the latest Hanover checkup. Our blood pressure cuff was a survey that was sent to every member. Our thermometer was the seven questions used to determine our collective temperature. And the scale was the responses that measured the weight of the challenges before us.

My sisters and brothers, the results of our checkup have been examined: as a body, we are healthy. The results (which anyone is welcomed to see) reveal a remarkable unanimity in approval of where we are and what we are doing in response to the coronavirus. The overall message seems to be "keep on keeping on". And so we will continue to strive to provide as many ways as safely possible to connect with one another. We will continue to re-double our efforts to provide important information in as many ways as we can, and to communicate the joys and concerns of the people. And we will continue to pray for faith, wisdom, and creativity in our worship planning.

Perhaps most importantly, as a community we are of one mind about our priorities during the pandemic. Above all else, we value our personal and collective safety and health. In response to the question about what factors will define when we're comfortable returning to worship nearly everyone agreed: when the medical/scientific community, authorities, and the trends all declare it is safe. Even as we have no clear indication of when that will be, we are resolute that we will wait for that day.

In the meantime, here is a prescription for maintaining your health between now and that day. Exercise: not just your bodies, but your minds and spirits – what better time to create new prayer and study rituals and routines?; Eat well, get enough sleep, and increase the time you do the things that feed your spirit. Trust: the experts who are planning how we respond to disease; your "neighbors" by Jesus's definition; the ones who know and love you best; and, most of all, in the God who creates, redeems, and sustains us all. Serve: so many people are experiencing so much need – find a way to help someone, and let the joy of service be your strength. Finally, and through it all: Love. Love, honor, and cherish that which is true, right, and just. Love others in the ways you would want to be loved. Love yourself in the way that God loves you. Love like our collective future depends upon it, because it does.

May God bless our health in this time of disease. May God inspire all that we say and do; that they would be of God. And may God's grace bring us...

Peace,
Andy





The Inquisitive Intern

by

Sara Snowden

*And on the seventh day God finished the work that he had done,
and he rested on the seventh day from all the work that he had done (Genesis 2:2).*

The beginning of the book of Genesis provides a description of how God spent six days creating our world and everything in it. That was a lot of work to accomplish in a week -- no wonder God took some time off on the seventh day! The first three words of Genesis, "In the beginning," help to set the stage for what the book is about. It is our origin story, the place of our beginning, the place in which God created order from chaos.

When we think of beginnings, whether we are starting a new job, setting up a new computer, or driving a new car, the first thing we do is learn the rules. We get an employee manual at orientation, a set-up manual for our computers, or an operating manual for the car. The purpose of these manuals is to explain the systems and explain how we should interact with the new thing. We learn the rules, expectations, and guidelines for how things are designed to work.

So, it makes sense that the authors of Genesis included some guidance for humans so that we understand the systems, expectations, and guidelines of God's creation. That God spent time resting during the creation of us and our world says something about God's expectations for how we use our time. After all, we are part of God's creation, and this time of rest is an integral part of the system we call life.

By the time you read this article, we will all be in the midst of a new beginning—the beginning of another year and an opportunity for each of us in our own lives to create order from chaos. We might list new guidelines for living and goals to accomplish. Some of us might even refer to those things as New Year's Resolutions. As you go about the coming days and weeks and think about your expectations for the coming year, be sure to reflect on where, when, and with whom you will rest. God shows us in Genesis that this is not an optional activity, but rather it is part of the whole creation. While spending an entire day resting may be a luxury we can't afford, setting aside an hour or two for reflection, or walking outside, or reading for pleasure, or even dancing and singing around the house seems more manageable. However you do it, take some time each week to join God in resting.

What is your favorite way to rest and rejuvenate? Share your thoughts with me:

sksnowden@lancasterseminary.edu



FOR ELDERS & DEACONS: Saturday, January 16, 2021 from 9:30-11:00AM

The Zoom link info and retreat materials will be emailed shortly before the retreat. *Please note:* This event will be the retreat only - separate meetings of Elders & Deacons will not be part of the retreat. The January Deacons' & Elders' meetings will take place on their regular monthly meeting days & times.

The Rev.
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Holiday Celebration
Monday, January 18, 2021
7:00pm via YouTube

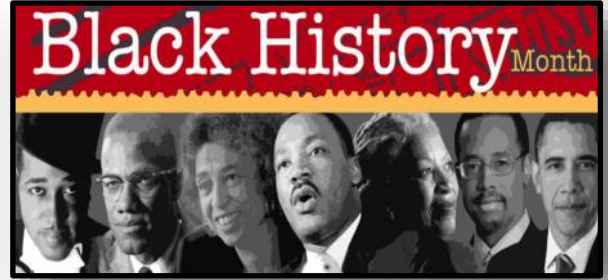
This year we will lift up the voices of our children and youth from houses of worship in the 9th Ward as they respond to the question:

*What is your dream for how the world will be
 new and different in 2021?*

We will also share in prayers for our city, state, and nation as we prepare for the Inauguration two days later.



This event is sponsored by
 The 9th Ward Interfaith Coalition.



Even in the midst of COVID, we are still celebrating our heritage, our connections, and our community with each other.

Please put our events on your calendars and join us for a month of guest speakers, musicians, great food, and friendship.

Black History Celebration Events at Hanover

Sunday services: January 24—January 31—February 7—February 14
Guest speakers Lisa Blunt Rochester, Rev. Charles Gilmore, Yassar Payne

Wednesday Zoom forums at 6:30PM: January 27—February 3—February 10
Guest presenters Darryl Parson, Richard Raw, Syl Woolford

Soul Food Luncheon: Sunday, February 21—pick-up time 11:30-12:30PM

This year is pre-ordering and picking up food at the Church from 11:30—12:30 p.m. We will email the reservation form.

Gospel Vespers: Sunday, February 21, 2:00 p.m. live streamed
Musical guests: Tina Betz, Martin Hargrove, Gus Mercante, Brian Gray

Brian Gray (having sung at our Gospel Vespers for at least 15 years now) will open the live-streamed event. Then a dramatic collaboration of music, reading, and reflection from three local artists: Tina Betz, Martin Hargrove, and Gus Mercante.



from Ellen Casson

Jefferson Street Center made the final payment to Insite Constructors, in November, for the renovations to the Gathering Place. Our Certificate of Compliance was sent to us on December 1, 2020 signed by the Commissioner of the Department of Licenses and Inspection. We have new ADA compliant restrooms, a new Food Pantry, a new custodian closet with mop sink, new paint and new flooring, and air conditioning. We have some small electrical projects to complete related to the kitchen. We are doing a few small touch-ups and we have lots of cleaning and setting up to do, but this major accomplishment is a bright spot from 2020.

JSC has applied to the Delaware Community Foundation for funds to install new “quiet” glass basketball backboards, with padding, to make them safer. A request was also made for money to pay our architect to design and prepare plans to satisfy Fire Marshal requirements to license the gym for childcare center use.

JSC has also been fortunate enough to receive funds through Delaware Health and Social Services and the CARES Act Resiliency Fund. Some of this funding will assist the childcare center and the food pantry with COVID-related health and safety items, like hand sanitizer stations, social-distancing signs, sneeze guards, and Plexiglass divider panels. We have also assisted the childcare center with the purchase of computers, software, and safety divider panels. The childcare center provides a learning pod for school age children who are in remote learning but can't be at home. Open Arms will also be able to use the soft panels for safe recreation in the church school hall during cold weather.

The new fire alarm panel was installed in October. New wiring and new smoke and heat detectors were installed, with everything being inspected and approved on November 5. On December 3, JSC finally received the permit for L&I to complete the installation of the sprinkle system in the gym, which has been this first week of January.

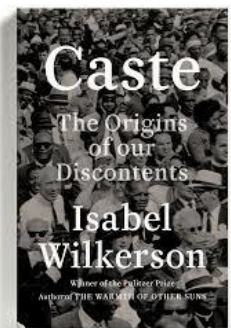
2021 Zoom Book Discussions

Hanover will be sponsoring four book discussions this year, currently on Zoom.

On **February 28th** we will discuss *Caste: The Origins of our Discontent* by Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, Isabel Wilkerson. She gives a masterful portrait of an unseen phenomenon in America as she explores through personal stories how our country has been shaped by a hidden caste system of human rankings.

The book can be purchased on Amazon in hardcover and on Kindle. If you need help with getting the book, please contact Maggie Alexander: maggieA10@verizon.net

Please contact Karin Wilson at (302) 984-0275 or by email at: kfmadison583@msn.com to get on the list to receive the link.



For your calendars, our other 2021 book studies will include:

May 16—*Climate Justice: Hope, Resilience, and the Fight for a Sustainable Future*

September 19—*Dancing in God's Earthquake*

November 14—*Nickel Boys*



2020 Annual Congregational Meeting

Minutes Summary

Hanover's Annual Congregational Meeting was held at 10:30 a.m., on Sunday, December 6, via Zoom, due to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. A quorum was present. Rev. Andrew Jacob (Pastor & Moderator of the meeting) welcomed the congregation and opened the meeting with prayer. The Session-approved 2021 budget summary was presented, and the Pastor's Terms of Call was unanimously approved.

2021 CHURCH BUDGET SUMMARY

INCOME	
Contributions (pledged & unpledged)	\$205,000
Per Capita giving	3,800
Loose offering	3,500
Memorials	1,000
Fundraising	6,000
Jefferson Street Center contributions	9,000
Open Arms Academy rent & utilities	50,351
Misc.	200
Building use	1,900
Total Income	\$280,751
EXPENSES	
Pastor	\$107,145
Other personnel	105,554
Building/operating	74,267
Per capita assessment	5,155
Programs	9,995
Presbytery, General Assembly & Pastor's Discretionary Fund	4,600
Total Expenses	\$306,716
Deficit	(\$25,965)

Rev. Jacob announced the following slate of officers for 2021:

ELDERS:

Class of 2023—Romain Alexander, Ayinde Flores, Susan Woodbury

Class of 2021—Jeff Long

DEACONS:

Class of 2023—Alice Cornelius, Ingrid Dark, Leandra Moore

Class of 2022—Norris Cramer

NOMINATING COMMITTEE MEMBER:

Class of 2022 - Cherise Alexander



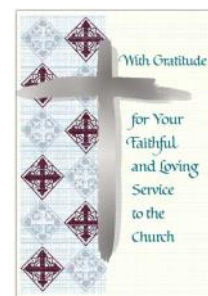
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES *(continued from page 5)*

Rev. Jacob thanked the outgoing officers for their dedication and talents offered to Hanover:

Nominating Committee: Becky Arnold

Deacons: Russ Buckley, Patricia Hall, David Harris, John Russell

Elders: Cheryl Heiks, Jeff Long, Mary Jo Penna, Karin Wilson



He then opened the floor for conversation. Alice Davis from the Personnel Committee noted that there was very high praise from surveys and their committee for the Hanover Staff: Pastor Andy, Twyla Evitts, Herm Pulliam, Tim Arnold, Jerri Harmon, and Jane Putscher. Rev. Jacob also thanked Sara Snowden (Ministry Intern) and Tom Davis (Worship Service Videographer) for their talents and dedication in producing the weekly worship services. Bill Balascio noted that even during the pandemic we were able to finish a great amount of building repair and construction.

For a more detailed copy of the annual meeting minutes, please contact the Church Office.



HANOVER MEMBER PROFILES: Mary Davis & Alison Moore

Mary Davis: Mary is a neighbor of Hanover and lives next door at the Baynard Apartment building. She has been in Wilmington for nearly 30 years and came with her husband a long time ago, from a very faraway place. Sadly, her husband and 2 children have since passed away. Mary came over to Hanover one day, because she was across the street, once she did, she never regretted it. People were very welcoming, and she loves it here. She wishes for the day that social distancing will end, and we can all be together at worship again. We are glad to know Mary Davis and enjoy her being a part of the Hanover family.

Alison Moore: Alison's family moved here from Buffalo, New York, and has lived in Delaware since 1970, when her father became Executive Presbyter for New Castle Presbytery. She came to Hanover Church with her son Casey, when Alison moved to the neighborhood in 1984. She loved the Hanover community, and it was there that she began to feel a call to ministry.

Her former husband, Casey's father, was killed that same year, a traumatic experience. Not long after his death she left her job, finished college, and went to graduate school. She took Casey with her to Yale Divinity School where they lived from 1986-1990. While there she developed a rare and painful autoimmune disease called Behcet's Disease. She managed to graduate and pass ordination exams, but after only working briefly Alison had to retire in 1996.

She now lives in an apartment in New Castle and receives the benefits of home health assistance and a visiting nurse. She rarely leaves home now for fear of the coronavirus. We hold you in our prayers, Alison.

Deacon Isheta Smith

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1	Greg Harris
7	Christina Poirier
7	David Simpson
8	Stephanie Cornell
8	Bernice Van Rooyen
15	Aysha Gregory
18	Marjorie Pulliam
18	Linda Zankowsky
21	Alice Cornelius
22	Thea Monroe Johnson
23	Rochelle Ransom
26	Sebastian Gross
27	Chris Garrett
27	Jeff Long
31	Patrick Evans

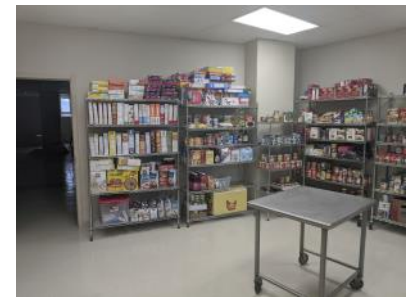
From the Food Pantry:

As we begin a new year in the Food Pantry, I would like to recognize the many volunteers that have kept it running in this past year. To me, they also have been on the "front lines." The Food Pantry has not closed at all during 2020. When Hanover decided to cancel all functions due to the virus, Session made one exception and that was the Food Pantry. We abided by all mandates and met clients at the door with boxes of food. When the weather changed and summer arrived, we held it outside on the Jefferson St. sidewalk. Fall came and then we felt comfortable with moving inside, wearing masks and being physically distant. Thanks to the many, many donations from Hanover members and our other church supporters, (Westminster, Concord, Church of the Covenant and Beth Shalom in particular), we have been well stocked and able to purchase the produce our clients so look forward to.



In reality, it is the faithful 15 volunteers that have come every week who have sustained this program. Their cheerfulness and the respect they show each client has never faltered. Only four are actually members of Hanover. The other 11 have been clients or have heard about us from others and stopped in once to see what it was all about then kept coming back week after week. Truly they are what sustains me and gets me going each week. It's due to their presence that Hanover's Food Pantry has the good reputation it does.

This week we are opening the "new" Food Pantry in the Gathering Place. We are all looking forward to this as we hope it will be a fresh start to a new year that will be so much better than the last. Thanks to everyone for your support.



From Church Life: Once again, we would like to try to put together a virtual Jeremiah's Coffee House. Please send your "act" to Twyla and we will produce a "Show of Shows!" We know there is talent out there just waiting to be shared. Share it with us!

FAMILY PROMISE: Happy New Year! We are starting 2021 with our first hosting week in January, 17-25 (Monday). If you were not available for our Christmas hosting week, please consider volunteering for our upcoming hosting week. You may sign up at <https://www.volunteersignup.org/LXCJF> to select slots for meal preparation, grocery shopping, meal/supply delivery and virtual engagement by Zoom. For more information, please contact your Family Promise coordinators, Marti Yates at martiyates@gmail.com and Karin Wilson at kfmadison583@msn.com. Thanks again for your generosity!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: The Friendship House, specifically the Empowerment Center, needs volunteers for the Sunday morning homeless and bag breakfasts. For more information, see their website at: www.friendshiphouse.org or call: (302) 652-8133. They appreciate any and all help with this program.

January

From the Church Office:

~ We are collecting 2020 Annual Report submissions until January 31. Please send them to Twyla at: churchadmin@hanoverchurch.org.

Weekly

Prayer Circle—Mondays, 8:30 a.m.
 High Noon at Hanover—Wednesdays, 12 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 Group & Committee Meetings

Black History Month Committee: Tuesday, January 5, 12:00pm
 Internship Lay Committee: Tuesday, January 5, 2:00pm
 JSC Board: Tuesday, January 5, 7:00pm
 From Surviving to Thriving: Thursday, January 7, 7:00 p.m.
 Invitational Team: Monday, January 11, 4:30 p.m.
 Worship Committee: Tuesday, January 12, 2:00 p.m.
 Faith in Action: Thursday, January 14, 5:30 p.m.
 Leadership Retreat: Saturday, January 16, 9:30am-11:00am
 Session: Tuesday, January 19, 7:00 p.m.
 February *Herald* article deadline: Thursday, January 28

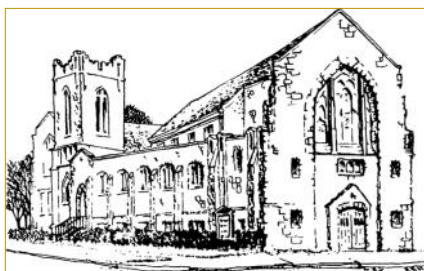
Welcome: An Open Place and Safe Space

Soon after the pandemic and its associated restrictions struck last March, we began scheduling a weekly time and space to ease the burdens produced by the coronavirus. Since then, each Wednesday at 5:30pm folks have gathered via Zoom to share stories, lend support to one another, and collectively sustain hope for that day when we can come together again.

The shorthand name for the gathering was "COVID-19", and it was created and designed for everyone because there is no one who is not affected by the virus. It is not exclusively for those who have tested positive, or who have a loved one who has become infected. It is very simply an open place and safe space available for anyone who is looking for solidarity, fellowship, and connection in this time of isolation.

The agenda is driven by those who log in each week. The group took a break during Advent, but will resume gathering on Wednesday, January 6. See the Flash, the website or call the office to have the Zoom link sent to you. May God bless us as we walk together through the valley of the virus.

May God bless the coming year!



Hanover Street Presbyterian Church

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Website: <http://www.hanoverchurch.org>

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