

Pastoral Transition Update – August 2022

Dear Hanover Saints,

On June 23, the first "Pastoral Transition Update" was sent to everyone on "The Scoop" email list and by U.S. Mail to those without email. An update will be a regular feature in our monthly newsletter, "The Hanover Herald." In the meantime, here are some items for your information & clarification:

Presbyterian Church (USA)'s Policy re: Former Pastors & Congregations

Briefly summarized, the church's policy is that pastors who have concluded ministry with their congregations are no longer available for any pastoral duties at their former congregations; and congregation members are not to request such from their former pastors.

So, the question is "Why?" The policy is certainly not meant to be punitive; rather, the policy sets boundaries and clearly defines the realities of transition:

The former pastor has moved to another call.

The congregation has the responsibility to focus its energy on seeking its new pastor and planning for its future.

Observing the policy ensures that an incoming transitional pastor won't be encumbered by a former pastor's influence or presence.

New Castle Presbytery's Policy Specifies That:

"Former pastors shall not conduct worship, preach, celebrate the sacraments of Baptism or the Lord's Supper, conduct weddings or funerals or engage in any other form of pastoral care for the congregation recently served.

Congregational members are to be informed not to request such services from a former pastor, and a former pastor must decline such requests.

The COMC (Committee on Ministers and Congregations – a committee of the Presbytery) has assumed responsibility for assisting both former and incumbent pastors during the time of transition. To this end, this policy will be supplied by the COMC to a departing pastor and she/he will be asked for a signed covenant of agreement."

(continued on page 2)



Covenant of Closure (the promise to follow the policy) - The Former Pastor, the Clerk of Session (on behalf of the Session), and the Presbytery's Committee on Ministers and Congregations (COMC) all sign a "Covenant of Closure", promising to follow this policy. Andy & I have signed this covenant and sent it to the Presbytery office for the COMC's signature.

Hanover's Session and New Castle Presbytery are working together to find a transitional pastor. To that end, Hanover's Elders are preparing answers to Presbytery's questions about what Hanover is looking for in a transitional pastor. The Elders and Rev. Kohlmann (our Presbytery liaison) will discuss these items in detail at the Aug. 16 Session meeting.

Let us pray that all of us will be inspired and guided by the Spirit on this journey! If you have any questions or comments, please contact me or any of the Elders.

Eloise Downing, Clerk of Session
 clerk@hanoverchurch.org
 302-304-0579



Sacred Grounds™ is a National Wildlife Federation program that recognizes congregations, houses of worship, and faith communities who both create wildlife habitat and actively link faith practices and caring for the environment.

Pacem in Terris, one of our tenants in the education wing of the church, proposed a Peace Garden collaborative with Hanover Church to apply for a Sacred Grounds mini-grant of \$1,500, for the creation of a Peace Garden pollinator project. If we receive the mini-grant, we will also be collaborating with Jefferson Street Center and community residents to support and maintain the garden.

Our focus will be on 19th Street between Baynard and Jefferson, on both sides of the 19th Street door, which is the primary entrance door for Pacem in Terris and JSC. The vision is to create a space that is peaceful and a positive addition to the environment and to the neighborhood surrounding the church, using native plants that will be compatible with the planting conditions and relatively easy to maintain. Our vision incorporates a small path of stones and/or sitting stones and a trellis along with the plants. We hope to provide an opportunity to teach children and youth about caring for a natural habitat and having a positive impact on the environment.

The National Wildlife Federation, Delaware Nature Society, and Delaware Center for Horticulture held a workshop at the Riverview Cemetery on Market Street. It was exciting to see many faith communities from all parts of the City were represented there. One young man at the workshop is leading the project for his church as part of his effort to earn his Eagle Scout badge.

Deacons' Corner—Tommy Tucker

By Deacon Katie Leep

You might have seen him handing out bulletins in church. You might have seen him back in the Social Hall after services on Sundays, doing dishes or helping out in other ways. Or, you might see him at the church many weekdays. He always seems to be helping Herm, Becky with food, and Jude with clothes. Who is this who helps everyone, always friendly and hospitable?



Tommy was born in Wilmington. His father had lived in Tennessee, but moved to Delaware and married his mother. His parents lived in Wilmington. Tommy had 2 brothers and 3 sisters, but only one sister and he are still alive. Tommy himself has lived in Delaware all of his life, except when going through high school and starting college in Virginia. There, he lived with his older sister. When college and Tommy did not agree, he moved back to Delaware – and he is been here since. Tommy likes Delaware better than Virginia because he has a lot of friends everywhere in Delaware.

Before he went to Hanover, he went to Calvary Presbyterian Church for 3-4 years. At that point, NAMI, an organization he's working with, talked with his social worker, and they helped him to move to 21st Street – close to Hanover Church. On 21st Street, he lives in house with 4 other men. They are all friends. After moving to 21st Street, he immediately came to Hanover, the closest Presbyterian church. He became a member in June, 2006. Many of his best memories are here at Hanover.

Tommy currently helps in the church during the week. He talked to people in church and asked to help out and that's how it started. He goes to the hot dog cart on Tuesdays, Wednesdays he bags up fruit and vegetables in freezer bags for the Food Pantry. He also helps Herm out on other days. Perhaps in the fall, we will see Tommy back again in the Social Hall helping with Coffee Hour.

On Fridays George Turner takes him shopping, to the bank, and any appointments he may have. Tommy is usually at home where he likes to listen to pop music (not rock and roll, but pop rock and melodies) on the radio.



In our time of pastoral transition, we have several people lined up to serve the congregation.

Please call the church office or if it's after hours, please call Twyla at (484) 868-6657.



Vacation Bible School – Hanover-Style

August 25-27 | 5:30pm-8:30pm Thursday & Friday

12:00pm-3:00pm Saturday

at the home of Tim & Becky Arnold

Wells in the Bible ~ A Place of Meeting and Meaning

Water. All of God's creation is dependent on it. In biblical times access to wells and springs meant life. Jesus at a well offers living water. Join us as we dig into several stories of meeting and meaning at biblical wells.

Join us for a potluck meal from 5:30pm-6:30pm (12pm-1pm on Saturday) followed by Bible study and activities for all ages. Don't forget your swimsuit!

Questions? Contact Nancy Long at nlong@covenantde.org

May our time together refresh us and encourage us to share the living water to others in our community and the world.

What's Happening

with



THE FOOD PANTRY: The Food Pantry is experiencing an uptick in clients this summer. Any contributions, donations are welcome. Thanks for your support!

JB'S CAFÉ: Please note that JB's Café will be closed on Tuesday, August 2. We'll be back in business the following Tuesday, August 9.



LITTLE FREE LIBRARY: Our Little Free Library is getting lots of use. We are so glad to see so many people reading.

We have plenty of books for adults, but still need more books for children and teens. If you have books to donate, leave them in the Church Office with a note that says "Little Free Library." Thanks to all who have donated.

ECO-PLASTICS: Keep bringing your plastic to Hanover, but please check the guidelines before dropping it off.

Check the bulletin board at the drop-off location for examples of what can be recycled and check the triangle on the bottom of the plastic for



Get
INVOLVED



Help with Delaware Nature Society Project

Coffee canisters and egg cartons are needed for a

project at the Delaware Nature Society.

If you have any, please leave them in the Church Office



Blue Rocks

vs.

Aberdeen IronBirds!

**Saturday, August 27, 2022 at
the Daniel S. Frawley Stadium**

Gates open at 6:00 p.m.

Opening Pitch: 6:35 p.m.

Sign up sheet is on the table under the bulletin board in the Church School Hall. Romain Alexander has reserved us an executive box, and the space holds 20 people.

Sign up and reserve your space now!



Remembering Eugene Heideman . . . *Ellen Casson*

Some of our Hanover members and friends will remember Eugene (Gene) Heideman and his wife, Mary, and daughter, Ruth. Gene passed away May 15, 2022, at the age of 92. They were devoted worshippers at Hanover, in the 1990s and early 2000s. When Gene retired, he moved to Delaware with Mary and Ruth, to be close to daughter Beth and her family. Hanover was fortunate to have the Heidemans become involved at Hanover. They were very active volunteers. Among other things, Mary served as chair of the Mission Committee and Gene stepped up and served as president of Jefferson Street Center, Inc.

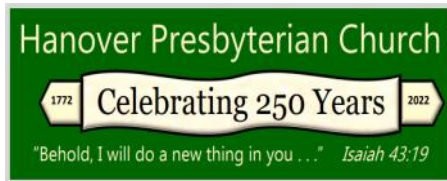
Gene Heideman was a leading theological voice in the Reformed Church and his many professional roles included serving as a pastor, a missionary in India, a professor and a writer. I remember Gene as a great leader and a humble man. He had a wonderful sense of humor and it was a joy to be around Gene, Mary and Ruth.

Here are a couple of links, if you want to read more about Gene.

<https://reformedjournal.com/a-quiet-influence-remembering-eugene-heideman/>

<https://dykstrafuneralhome.com/obituaries/eugene-heideman.140034>





"Decisions"

Tim Arnold, 250 Committee

A couple of months back, I talked about decisions.

Not all decisions were necessarily great ones. And some decisions were made that were important, but we will never know whether they were good or not. I would address a few of them for you to ponder during these summer months.

One from around 70 years ago involved an opportunity to purchase land across Jefferson Street. Hanover could have had a fair size parking lot, but decided the purchase price was too high. Later a proposal was made to tear down the manse and put in a smaller parking lot. That too was voted down. One wonders if more parking would have been a boon or a hindrance to Hanover's having to face truly being a "city church".

Another decision was made, or not made, when it was decided to air condition the Jefferson Street Child Care. We could have brought air conditioning into Hanover at that time. It made economic sense. There were certain voices that objected to spending money on something only useful for a few months a year. Of course others felt not having to decide between adequate cooling in front of our giant fans and being able to hear worth it. In the end the A/C went in only very recently. It is good to also realize that some of today's devices for cooling were not really available to us 40 years ago.

A third decision to ponder was the one that we deal with every year. Each member deals with their own budgets and Hanover's Session must do the same for the church. Each year they must decide how much to spend, how much, if any, to save and how much to ask of the congregation. Everyone feels differently about this. It is offered simply to point out that some decisions never really go away; they just are faced every year.

Hanover 250th Anniversary Celebrations

Sunday, September 18, 11:00am: A New Thing—Our Partnership with JSC

Sunday, September 25, 11:00am: A New Thing...A New Worshipping Community

Sunday, October 16, 11:00am: A Musical Worship Service Through the Arts

Saturday, October 22: The 250th Celebratory Banquet at Oliver's

Sunday, October 23, 11:00am: What is Yet to Come...





"I love borders. August is the border between summer and autumn; it is the most beautiful month I know."

—Tove Jansson

Weekly Happenings

Prayer Circle—Mondays, 8:45am
 JB's Café—Tuesdays, 8am - 1pm
 Pickleball—Wednesdays, 10am - 11am
 Clothing Closet—Wednesdays, 10am -1pm
 Coping Together—Wednesdays, 5:30pm Zoom
 Food Pantry—Thursdays, 8-10am
 Yoga—Fridays, 6:15pm - 7:30pm
 Worship—Sundays, 10am

August Meetings & Events

Deacons: Tuesday, August 2, 6pm Zoom
 JSC Board: Tuesday, August 2, 7pm
 Worship Committee: Tuesday, August 9, 1:15pm
 Faith in Action: Tuesday, August 9, 5pm
 Session: Tuesday, August 16, 7pm
 Staff meeting: Wednesday, August 17, noon
 VBS: Thursday, August 25—Saturday, August 27

August Birthdays

1 Evan Pulliam
 7 Frances McFarland
 11 Terry Gross
 11 Brett Pulliam
 11 Marshae Pulliam-Bibbs
 13 Quazeem Rosa
 15 Brittany Peterson
 15 Karin Wilson
 16 Susan Anderson
 18 Norma Reid
 18 Michael Zankowsky
 18 Elizabeth Heiks
 22 George Turner
 29 Leon Wilson
 29 Michele Zistl
 30 John Heiks

Looking ahead in September . . .

Grand Opening Block Party

Saturday, September 24

11am—3pm

**Be on the lookout for more
 information coming soon!**



Hanover Street Presbyterian Church

Address: 1801 N. Jefferson Street
 Wilmington, DE 19802
 Phone: (302) 658-5114
 Email: office@hanoverchurch.org
 Pastor Andy email: pastor@hanoverchurch.org
 Website: <http://www.hanoverchurch.org>



Staff:

Commissioned Ruling Elder: Tim Arnold
 Organizing Pastor: Rev. Brooke Scott
 Church Administrator/Minister of Music: Twyla Evitts
 Sexton: Herman Pulliam
 Child care: Jerri Harmon-Matthews
 Office Volunteers: Alice Cornelius, Ruth Howell,
 Walter Scott, George Turner