



Hanover Presbyterian Church
Wilmington, Delaware

May 2021

Dear Hanover Saints,

At any point before the pandemic had I said to you, "The Prayer Circle is meeting next Monday at 8:30am", you likely would have wondered why I was bothering to tell you. After all, for more than a decade the Prayer Circle has met every Monday at 8:30am.

To state the outrageously obvious: we are living in different times, and when the times are different, the very nature of the news we receive also changes. So, let me offer a slightly altered version of the previous statement: "The Prayer Circle is meeting next Monday at 8:30am – in person!" With the exceptions of the food pantry, hot dog cart, and the yoga group, this will be the first regularly meeting group to resume its gatherings in person since March 2020.

This is absolutely wonderful news, which I share in the spirit of seeing "light at the end of the tunnel". I have worked so hard for so long to find moments that inspire hope. I pray that the news of even just one group beginning to gather again would bring you nothing less.

At the same time, I am compelled to offer a virtual litany of qualifications. The group is small. Each of the regularly attending people have been vaccinated. There is ample room to social distance and fulfill our purpose for gathering. And, yes, we will continue to wear masks. If, at any point, the risk of gathering increases, we will once again place our trust in the Holy Spirit to work through Zoom.

At this point we are not prepared to return to our full schedule of activities in person. As anticipated, we will continue to evaluate and make decisions based upon the role and nature of each group. Above all, we will continue to be vigilant about the health, safety, and security of anyone in our church home.

I am hearing more often the question about when we might return to worship in person. Even as I lament not being able to do so yet, I nonetheless rejoice in the anticipation we share for once again being together. The Session and Worship Committee are currently planning to hold the annual outdoor worship and picnic at Fox Point Park on Sunday, June 13. Since the start of the pandemic members of the Session have been carefully tracking the trends in our city and state. We will continue to use that as our primary guide for when it is safe and appropriate to gather in person. Rest assured, you will not be able to escape the news once a date has been chosen!

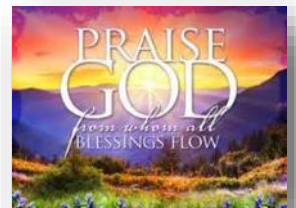
Finally, a parting thought. I have long believed that the numbers in a budget are but a projection and reflection of our deepest values. Creating a budget requires one to prioritize what is most important to support those values so that we live them out.

I offer this as an analogy to suggest how wonderfully appropriate – and telling - it is that one of the early groups to begin meeting in person is the Prayer Circle. Yes, there are practical and logistical reasons that make this possible. I would rather claim it as evidence of one of our deepest shared Christian values: the longing to be in a close and meaningful relationship with God – in, and through, one another's prayers.

"The Prayer Circle is meeting next Monday at 8:30am." Praise God.

Peace,

Andy





The Inquisitive Intern

by
Sara Snowden

Back in December, at the midpoint of my internship, I wrote about what I had learned from you, Hanover Saints. I spoke about listening, laughter, service, juggling, and faith. I continued to learn about all of those, but you also taught me some new things as well:

Community: The church is communal by nature. It cannot exist in a single person, but comes to life in a group of people. God's energy, creativity, and love are shared within the group and far beyond the group. That energy, love, and creativity are nourishing to all who share them and for all who receive them. I have tried to share them in my time with you. And through you, I have received them time and again.

Flexibility: Service within a community requires flexibility and willingness to alter course or change plans when necessary. And in a pandemic, that may be even more true! Everyone who has worshipped online has seen flexibility in action every single week.

Grace: No, not Pacem and Grace, but the grace that is extended to each and every one of us through Christ. You have demonstrated to me over and over what grace looks like and feels like. You have helped me to appreciate in new ways this marvelous gift—and shown me how to live out my gratitude for that gift in service to God.

Breathing: Several months back, I hit a wall. Everything was too hard, and it all felt impossible to do. Perhaps you have experienced something similar, too. In his book, *Rest in the Storm: Self-care Strategies for Pastors and Other Caregivers*, Kirk Byron Jones writes about the need to take time to rest and inhale, to breathe in the life-giving Spirit of God. He says unless we take the time to rest and to breathe, "We are trying to do God's work without God." Wow! You taught me to inhale, to take time out, to write in my journal every day, and to sit quietly with God. Try it!

Gratitude: Internships are scary things, especially when you are a middle-aged woman! You welcomed me in, showed me the ropes, and helped me learn vital lessons. You let me fall, and you helped me stand back up. You helped me experience God, the church, and worship in new and exciting ways. And you gave of yourself time and again. I am endlessly grateful for you, Hanover Saints, and I will carry you with me everywhere I go.

With gratitude and in peace,

Sara



Bake Sale/ Plant Sale

Saturday,
May 8

10 a.m.
to 1 p.m. at
Hanover Church

PLUS:

J.B.'s Cafe

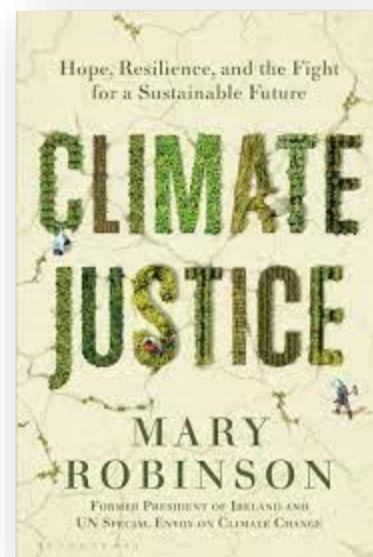
(The Hot Dog
Cart and More)



Hanover Book Discussion

Join us Sunday, May 16th from 4:00-6:00 p.m. via Zoom for Hanover's next book discussion: **Climate Justice: Hope, Resilience, and the Fight for a Sustainable Future.**

Please plan to join us on Sunday, May 16th from 4:00-6:00 p.m via Zoom for our discussion of Climate Justice by Mary Robinson. As an Earth Care Congregation we all need to educate ourselves on this topic. The book is a short, but informative read and one copy is available from the church office, well as in the local library. We hope that our young people will join us for this discussion as well.



HELP US REDUCE PLASTIC POLLUTION

Plastic is everywhere and it has become a threat, choking our planet. Microplastics (shards of plastic, smaller than a grain of rice), have been found everywhere, from the deep depths of the ocean to the peaks of the highest mountains. Among other places, they've been found in bottled water, beer, tea bags, and tap water.



Recycled materials park bench

When the church reopens, the Faith in Action Committee will begin a project to help reduce plastic pollution. They will be collecting clean #1, #2, and #4 plastic as well as plastic bags and bubble wrap. The plastic will be taken to Eco Plastics on Germay Drive. Eco Plastic Products of Delaware is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that collects discarded plastic and converts it into useful and sustainable products such as picnic tables, park benches, sandboxes, raised beds, etc. These are sold to the public or given to non-profit groups. ECOP also provides work to those who fit the full spectrum of human abilities.

For more information, go to www.ecoplastics.org.

Hanover has become a certified **Earth Care Congregation** by the Presbyterian Church (USA) through February 2022. We are committed to including environmental practices and thinking into our worship, education, facilities, and outreach. Leading the way is our Creation Care Youth Group: **Jacob Arnold, Chris Jacob, Jonathan Jacob, Bryn Van Rooyen, Judy Van Rooyen**, and their advisors: **Nancy & Jeff Long, Lorie Tudor, and Andy Jacob**. Thank you for your hard work in getting our certification, and we are looking forward to more ongoing and new projects that will continue the work of caring for our planet.





Food Pantry News – Thank you to all who have been dropping off personal care items. Our clients are so happy to see them on the shelves! Please keep them in mind when you are shopping and wanting to get something for the Food Pantry.

JB'S Cafe gets off to a good start. The weather has been particularly good to us and we have enjoyed sunny, mild Tuesdays. Our menu has expanded to offer options to hot dogs that we hope will be a welcome change. Please join us from 10-1 every Tuesday for a chance to meet and greet old and new friends!

SURPRISE!! We're having a **POP-UP SIDEWALK SALE!** We'll be featuring plants and garden odds and ends, baked goods and of course JB'S Café will be open. Stop by on Saturday, May 8 from 10am -1pm. It will be the perfect time to purchase plants for your yard as well as your vegetable garden. Everything will follow Covid protocol – hand sanitizing stations will be available and masks are required . All baked goods will be packaged and sold as is. Hope to see you there!

Property Updates . . .

The positive partnership between Hanover and Jefferson Street Center, Inc. continues, as more property improvements are made. Following the completion of the sprinkler system in the gym, there was a lot of dust and dirt to clean up. The scope of the cleaning job was more than volunteers could handle, so JSC hired a professional cleaning company, Blue Sky cleaning services. The gym was cleaned from ceiling to floor, with a special sealer coat applied to the rubber floor to protect it. On May 12, new glass backboards and basketball rims and nets will be installed by Al's Sporting Goods, thanks to a grant from the Delaware Community Foundation. Next is painting, while everything is clean, with the anticipation that the gym will be opening gradually and safely for community use.

Another exciting property improvement is a plan for some changes to the landscape and hardscape around the 18th and Baynard area of the church. Plans were shared with the Hanover Session and the JSC Board and approved. These changes will provide improved and more attractive outdoor space for JB's Café at Hanover. Again, this is a positive example of Hanover and JSC working together to benefit the community surrounding the church. Funding is being provided to JSC from Healthy Communities Delaware to expand and improve the outdoor dining space for the benefit of the community. There will be funding to purchase new outdoor tables and chairs and funding for a proposal from Old Country Gardens to remove some of the current landscape plants and install hardscape, stone benches



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 20th. In the Treasurer's finance report through March 2021, Hanover received \$62,364 in pledged and unpledged giving, which is 30% of the budgeted amount at 25% of the year. Our regular income was \$81,741 and our regular expense was \$92,120, leaving us with a deficit of \$10,379 through the end of March. The figures do not include the \$25,500 from the Payroll Protection Plan. That money is carried as a loan until Hanover qualifies for loan forgiveness at the end of the year.

The Hanover balance sheet shows total liabilities and equity of \$261,069. Hanover's Fidelity Investments total \$178,592.45 as of the end of March 2021.

Ellen Casson, Finance Chair

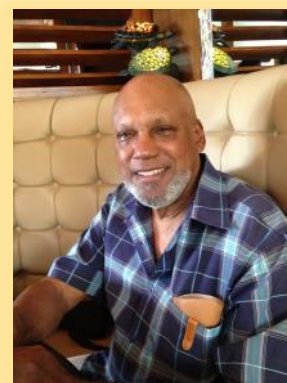


MAY BIRTHDAYS

1	Herman Pulliam
3	BJ Kennedy
4	Karen Hudson
4	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
21	Mary Davis
21	Jonathan Jacob
22	Tommy Tucker
26	Dessa Hattenfield
26	Katie Leep
27	Eloise Downing
27	Miranda Garrett
30	Ali Anderson
30	Betty Bayard
31	Lorie Tudor

Member Profile: George Turner

George Turner is a beloved Hanover member with a long history of fighting injustices faced by people of color. He graduated from Howard High School, a segregated school, in 1954. Prior to graduation, he was asked to join in the fight to end segregation by applying to A.I. DuPont High School. His application was denied, and his case wasn't used to help the court cases that ended segregation, but both of his younger brothers applied and graduated from there.



After graduation and as head of the household, George found it hard to find work, so he volunteered for the army. At the time draft age was 27, so by volunteering, he likely saved another 26-year-old man from being drafted. While in the army, George had several adventures, some in the not-so-pleasant category. He rode from Texas to Huntsville, Alabama with four white army mates. He experienced discrimination everywhere he stopped, and his friends learned to "hide" George in order to get food, usually having to take him to the back door if he were to be served.

After being denied opportunities overseas, he experienced a top-secret mission on Marshall Islands in the Pacific. The mission was so devastating that the island is still inhabitable today. His expertise in the military was mechanics and missiles, and so he had the good luck of working with leading scientists of that time. He also had the misfortune of being in a bunker beneath Marshall Island while the only stratospheric nuclear bomb test occurred. Lucky for us, he seems to be alright!

After leaving the service, George found it difficult to find work at home. When Chrysler came to Newark, he and his two brothers Peter and Russell applied. As "lighter" black men, they were offered jobs, but George wasn't. The next day George showed up anyway, telling the hiring manager that they lost his application, and he ended up working for Chrysler for 31 years. In the beginning, black people were only allowed to work as linemen, but he worked his way into other roles such as security and safety before retiring.

In spite of, or maybe because of the difficulties that George experienced in his life related to discrimination, George has made it a priority to mentor youth in our community. He has touched countless lives through a variety of programs including school, the Y, and the Presbytery. He says, "if you can't reach people in the church, where can you reach them?" In the 90's he helped coordinate a program that taught in at least 28 of the Presbyterian churches in Delaware to help stop discrimination. His work continues today, and we are grateful for the work he has accomplished. To date, he has reached over 10,000 people, and he's not done yet!

~Deacon Natalie Jobes

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow . . .

On April 25 we were blessed by the message that our Seminary Intern Sara Snowden delivered. In the wake of the verdict in the George Floyd murder trial Sara challenged us to lament with Mr. Floyd's family, take comfort in the accountability the verdict produced, and to remain vigilant in our pursuit of racial and social justice. It was also Sara's last Sunday with us in her role as an intern.

And, oh, what a blessing Sara has been. Despite a worldwide pandemic that prevented her from meeting many of you, she approached everything she did with no less passion, energy, creativity, and love. She did not just rise to the occasion—she defied it! For Sara, the pandemic became an opportunity to use all of her many gifts in new and different ways. For every door that was closed, she built a new one. Her service to the Hanover saints will be long remembered for the Great blessing it has been to us all.

On Saturday, May 8, Sara will graduate from Lancaster Theological Seminary with her Master of Divinity degree. She has passed all of the required exams to be ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the PC(USA). And in the midst of it all, she and her husband Chip are in the process of moving!

Sara, we offer you our ongoing prayers; that through all of these landmark moments and transitions that you would continue to be guided by your faith in our Risen Lord, and the leading of the Holy Spirit. May you receive God's greatest blessings, just as you have been one for us. And may each day in your journey be filled with . . .

Peace,
Andy



"A Mother's Day Poem" ~ Helen Steiner Rice



A Mother's love is something that no one can explain,
It is made of deep devotion and of sacrifice and pain,
It is endless and unselfish and enduring come what may
For nothing can destroy it or take that love away . . .
It is patient and forgiving when all others are forsaking,

And it never fails or falters even though the heart is breaking . . .
It believes beyond believing when the world around condemns,
And it glows with all the beauty of the rarest, brightest gems . . .
It is far beyond defining, it defies all explanation,
And it still remains a secret like the mysteries of creation . . .

A many-splendoured miracle man cannot understand
And another wondrous evidence of God's tender guiding hand.



Weekly Happenings

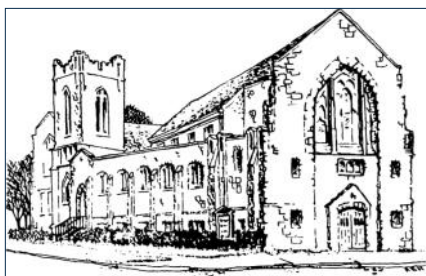
Prayer Circle—Mondays, 8:30am
JB’s Café—Tuesdays, 10am-1pm
High Noon at Hanover—Wednesdays, 12pm
Coping with COVID—Wednesdays, 5:30pm
Food Pantry—Thursdays, 8am
Yoga—Fridays, 6:15pm
Virtual Worship Service—Sundays, 10am
(available on Saturday evenings)
Zoom Fellowship Hour—Sundays, 10:30am

Zoom Groups, Meetings, and Special Events

Deacons: Tuesday, May 4, 6pm
JSC Board: Tuesday, May 4, 7pm
From Surviving to Thriving: Thursday, May 6, 7pm
Happy Mother’s Day: Sunday, May 9
Invitational Team: Monday, May 10, 4:30pm
Worship Committee: Tuesday, May 11, 1:15pm
Faith in Action: Thursday, May 13, 5pm
Session: Tuesday, May 18, 7pm
June *Herald* article deadline: Thursday, May 27
Church Office closed: Monday, May 31

Looking ahead to June . . . can you guess?

Stay tuned for the answer!



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