



P.O. Box 1561
136 Carlisle St.
Hanover, PA 17331
717-633-6353

Hanover Area Council of Churches

One Body • One Spirit

Council News February 2021

adminhacc@hanoverareacouncilofchurches.org

www.hanoverareacouncilofchurches.org

Special Needs

PAL

Single serve fruits
Individual size chips,
pretzels, etc.
Laundry detergent
Instant white rice
Scallop Potatoes

Changing Lives Shelter

Deodorant
(Men & Women)
Exam Gloves
(Medium & Large)
Hand Sanitizer
Bottled Water
Shampoo/
Conditioner

Clothing Bank

Family sized
toiletries
Sheet sets all sizes
Bath Towels
Men's L and XL
white t-shirts
Baby Diapers sizes
4 and 5

Ruth's Harvest

Single serve entrees,
cereal, juice boxes,
snacks or veggies
(all single serve)

HACC

We accept donations
Mon-Fri 8am -
12:30pm
Sat 8am -12:30pm or
by appointment. Call
717-633-6353 to
schedule a drop off.

A letter from Carol Hinkle HACC Executive Director

Here we are 10 days into the 2021 and it looks to be as tumultuous as 2020. I have to say though I have started my New Year by keeping my resolutions. I am reading through the Bible, praying for everyone on my list (and then some) and have started cleaning my desk, a start.

Everything else in my life is in God's hands because I have no ability to control what is happening all around us. I think this is the third wave of COVID and it is hitting so close to home for so many of our friends and family. We cry out to God who is our eternal hope. Our prayers are the best of what we offer those whom we are not allowed to visit. Along with the physical healing of our land, we need to pray for the spiritual, emotional and yes, the deep political divide that is tearing us apart as a people, as communities and even as families.

With the advent of 2021, so many people hoped for a new beginning and yet here we are with some things worse than ever. We who are called Christ's followers need to be willing to follow His lead as peacemakers, forgivers, obedient to the Word, steadfast in prayer and repay hate and rudeness with love and joy. It is a tall order to be a Christ follower, but I think we may someday in the not-too-distant future need to make that declaration to a world on the brink.

Yesterday I got to this point and thought hmmm, for some of our readers this could be a little terrifying. Then I remembered our God is an Awesome God. Who should we fear with God on our side? God plus None is a winning combination. The only way I have found to experience peace and get a good night's sleep is to turn all my problems, concerns and anxieties over to my Lord and ask for His peace. This is a time for us to combine in prayer for our fellow believers, for our leaders, for our families and friends, for our nation and our world. Let us prayer for strength and wisdom from our Lord and not look within ourselves or other human entities for strength, hope or peace because that is not where a lasting source is found. Let us know that our faith, hope and grace come from a God much stronger than all that this world has to offer today or tomorrow. We are just traveling through, trying to share the "Bread" we have been given on the way to our eternal home. Along the way, do all the good Jesus gives you the opportunity to do.

Peace and Blessings

From the desk of Rev. Nancy Werner (Council President)

“I am the light of the world,” are words from Jesus recorded in John 8:12. Along the same line, as Jesus finished the beatitudes, he also said to those who were listening, “You are the light of the world.” (Matthew 5:14)

Whether it’s the light within himself or within his listeners-- ordinary people like you and me -- the purpose of the light is the same according to Jesus. “Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life.” (John 8:12-13) After pointing out the light within us humans, Jesus said, “No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others...” (Matthew 5:15-16) The purpose of this holy light is to shine for the benefit, care, welfare, nurture and blessing of others.

How have you been experiencing this light recently?

These past few weeks I have been reflecting on how this light is hope, our hope. I have noticed the importance of hope in my faith and life and in our communities as well as our nation.

This hope is not based on luck or fate. It is not sourced from our human strength, abilities, intelligence or goodness. I believe this light to which Jesus referred is the sure and certain hope that only comes from God.

Sometimes hope shines bright and strong as a beacon and sometimes it is a weak and wavering beam as a flashlight with dying batteries. “At times our own light goes out and is rekindled by a spark from another person. Each of us has cause to think with deep gratitude of those who have lighted the flame within us.”¹

For whom do you give thanks to God for rekindling your hope so that it shines brightly for the benefit of others?

I give thanks to God for what you do, as individuals and in partnership with the ministries of HACC, to revive and energize the light of hope within me and in the greater Hanover area! May it continue to shine in all that you do for the glory of God!

Rev. Nancy Werner, President of Board of Directors

¹ Albert Schweitzer (1875-1965), medical doctor and theologian, is credited with this quote.

February 2021 Weekly Prayers

1 st Week	Board of Directors
2 nd Week	Building Committee
3 rd Week	Changing Lives Shelter Staff
4 th Week	Community Health Ministry

February 2021 HACC Meetings

Currently, HACC Meetings are tentative. All Committees will be notified through email by the HACC Administrative Office with updates. If you find that you have not received a reminder email; please contact Faith at 717-633-6353 or adminhacc@hanoverareacouncilofchurches.org.

Stay Healthy and Safe!

Clothing Bank News

We are open Monday – Thursday 9am-12pm by appointment only with limited shoppers.

Upon entering the building, everyone must sign-in, sanitize their hands and have temperatures checked. Masks are to be worn at all times.

Shoppers will receive 2 free bags of clothing. Additional items will be .50 cents each

Please call 717-633-6353 to schedule your appointment



Ruth's Harvest News

We are collecting single serve food items. We are grateful for monetary donations as well. Please feel free to contact Carol Hinkle, Executive Director at Hanover Area Council of Churches, Claudia Hudson, Chairman of Ruth's Harvest or Debby Seibert, Coordinator of Ruth's Harvest if you have any questions, suggestions, or concerns.

Debby Seibert
Coordinator
Ruth's Harvest
(717) 451-7001



Changing Lives Shelter News

The Changing Lives Shelter is open and remains on a limited capacity. The following guidelines are in place:

1. The Shelter office is in operation 22-hours a day, 7-days a week. The Shelter closes each day between 11am and 1pm. Potential Residents must have lived in the Greater Hanover Area for at least four to six months;
2. The Shelter is operating on a one-person per room basis, due to Covid-19. The Shelter has the capacity to hold six men, six woman and two families.
3. Residents are subjected to mandatory random drug and alcohol testing. The Shelter has implemented the temperature monitoring system to safeguard our Residents and Staff.
4. Volunteers are currently needed in the Shelter during the afternoon/evening from 1pm-5pm and 5pm-8pm.

Job Openings: Intake Office Personnel for our afternoon/evening shifts 1pm - 5pm; 5pm -11pm; and 11pm - 7a.m. If interested, please stop by our office for an application or email your Resume to: adminhacc@hanoverareacouncilofchurches.org.

Meals on Wheels News

Two-person teams are needed Monday through Friday to drive and deliver meals from 11:00am — 12:00pm. Please call (717)633-6353 and ask to speak to Laura Zimmerman, Coordinator.

If you are a current volunteer and have moved or your phone number has changed, please notify the Coordinator. If you have an email that you wish to use as your means of contact, please let us know!

The year 2020, forever known as the year of Covid-19, will be memorable to us all for many uncomfortable and sad reasons. But...HACC's ministry to recipients and volunteers of its Meals on Wheels program are especially blessed by nourishment to their bodies and to their souls and we consider this year in the Council's ministry to shut-ins as very special. This year, amidst declining volunteer numbers, we still fed **8,812** meals with the help of over **75** volunteers who contributed more than **2,530** hours of service to our Lord and fellow man. We made an effort to send a few "extras" as well – adult coloring books and markers, short bible passages, daily devotionals, seasonal cards and items to lift spirits. The volunteers were exceptionally committed.



Volunteers are the Heart of HACC

February 2021 Volunteer Highlight



For the past 5 months, three marvelously kind and generous young women on a mission with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have assisted PAL Lunch and the Clothing Bank. Their local church is located in New Oxford at 1170 Kohler Mill Rd, New Oxford, PA 17350.

Sister Sadie Gassaway, Sister Danee Bradshaw and Sister Halle Glazebrook arrived in September 2020 and began working at PAL lunch on Wednesdays and the Clothing Bank on Fridays. Under the guidance of Joan Potter, PAL – they learned the daily routine of packing and distributing lunches. They occasionally cooked, stocked the pantry and prepackaged take home kits. They are compassionate Christians, and hardworking and given the reduction of volunteers during COVID, we literally could not have done PAL without them.

On Fridays, at the Clothing Bank, Denise Bunty, head of volunteering for that section of HACC, taught them to sort, organize, and distribute clothes. The women enjoyed both ministries because of the wonderful chance to work personally with those in need.

Sister Sadie and Sister Danee departed last week to continue their ministry in other parts of the country. Sister Kassidy Graham has just joined Sister Halle and will be here for the next few months. Despite her short stay, she says she “can already feel the Spirit in helping others at the Council of Churches.” The “amazing spirit of all the volunteers” inspires Sister Halle! As a parting gesture, the young woman videotaped the staff who discussed their individual job duties and how they are enriched by the work. Please find the well-done and informative videotape on our website at www.hanoverareacouncilofchurches.org. You can also find it on our website page and at their Facebook page: hope of christian Hanover.

We are still looking for Volunteers to serve in the various ministries. If you or anyone you know is interested please contact the office.

HANOVER CARES: *House the Homeless*

Real Country



1280 AM

ROCKY98.5
CLASSIC ROCK

“Hanover Cares: House the Homeless”

Marathon

**Tune in to the Live broadcast on
WHVR 1280 AM and WYCR 98.5 FM**

HANOVER AREA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES – CHANGING LIVES HOMELESS SHELTER

HANOVER CARES: HOUSE THE HOMELESS

Last March, 2020 COVID news of social distancing, mask wearing and closed businesses changed the way things operated the Changing Lives Shelter and everyday business. Despite our alterations to operating, we continue to serve our clients and our financial needs remain. Thus, **Hanover Cares**, our annual fundraiser on radio stations WHVR and WYCR will continue in 2021. Instead of being able to spend time on air with guest speakers and musicians for a Thursday and Friday close to Valentine’s Day, we are going to be given the whole month of February to try to get our message out and be able to accept donations for that time. We will do some live Better Living spots and some pre recorded spots with radio personalities (and with the chance of broadcasting on both radio stations WHVR and WYCR.)

Our statistics and practices have changed drastically during COVID. Our sleeping rooms are setup for two individuals, so to be safe we only have one person to a room unless from the same household. Therefore, instead of housing 24 people we are now only housing 12 singles plus families. In addition, at the direction of the Executive Committee on behalf of the Board, we limit our reach to the general Hanover Area w/residency in this area. This gave us a total number of residents who stayed at Changing Lives of 119 men, 45 women and 17 children for a total of 3900 shelter nights. The average stay per resident is 33 nights.

For questions, call 717-633-6353 or 633-1992. Go on line to www.hanoverareacouncilofchurches.org to donate through PayPal or send donations to:

Hanover Area Council of Churches
P.O. Box 1561
Hanover, PA 17331
Memo: Hanover Cares

In addition to financial needs, we also have volunteer needs and staff needs. We are hiring part time for overnight 11PM to 7AM shift, as well as morning 7a-11a, afternoon 1p-5p and evening 5p-11p hours.

Faithful Friends

\$10,000

Anonymous
Hanover Shoe Farm
J. William Warehime Foundation
Beverly Mohammed
Jennifer & Mark Riggs
Shari & William M Therit Jr.
Tricia Warehime
Kenneth Wenger

True Friends

\$1,000

Anonymous
Benchmark Investments
Russell & Lorraine Bulden
Pamela & Alan Cashman
Karen J. Claycombe
Gay & Ralph Dickson
Sidney Ehrnart
Grace & F Rusty Elsner
Emmanuel United Church of
Christ
Jay & Doris Fogelsanger
Carol Hinkle
Bruce L. Jones
Linda Lohr
Rita & James Martin
Charlotte & Richard Mullinix
Muriel & David Myers
Joyce & Harold Raubenstine
Rev. LaDonna & Rev. Steven
Thomas
Peg Sennett
Marlene Shilling
Linda & Robert Simmonds
Donna Stair
St. Jacob's (Stone) UCC

Crisis Fund

Loyal Friends

\$5,000

Phyllis Accardi
Anonymous
Anonymous
Grace UCC
SRC Insurance
St. Paul Lutheran Church,
York St.
Patricia & John Warehime

Devoted Friends

\$2,500

Kathy Bortner
Hanover Toyota
Rotary Club of Hanover
Barb & Kurt Thomas
Trone Rentals
J. Stewart & Michele Dowell

Steadfast Friends

\$500

Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
C.A. Weber Agency
Regina & William Dignan
Jay & Doris Fogelsanger
Joan & Jerry Grim
Matthew Guthrie-R
Timothy Hartman
Home Assn of McSherrystown
M. Jane Hutton
Jill Janusz
Gene & Sheila Latta
Arlene Marks
Fred L. Marsh
Lee A, & R. Scott Miller
Schmuck Lumber
David & Joyce Schnell
Michele & Tom Witman

Dedicated Friends

\$1-\$499

Kay & Charles Altland
Dale Alwine
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Barry Bankert
Karen Braker
Diane Buvia
Richard J. Claycombe
Kate Colgan
Mary & Ken Collins
Pam Dewitt
Regina & Bill Dignan
Judith Doner
Jane Dull
Laura Erckman
Cathy & Stan Ferree
James & Norma-Jean Frye
Brenda Funke
Linda Heckman
Martha Hempfing
Sally Hershey
Rosalie Hobbs
Gerald Hockensmith
David Houck
Linda Huggens
Gilda Janusz
Norma Jeont
Janet Johnson
Kathleen A. Jones
Laurel & John Jurasic
Ginny & Wes Keffer
Estelle King
Karl Lehman
Cathy John Lynn
Linda McJunkin
Margaret Moulton
Patricia Mueller
Loretta & Fred Ness

Rosemary & Joseph Ackermanns
Lorraine & Douglas Becker
Burkentine & Sons Builders
James & Norma-Jean Frye
GHI Engineers
Hanover Capital Management Inc
Hanover Club
Michelle & Michael Harter
Marybeth and Michael Hockenberry
Elizabeth & James Hofmann
Joyce & Steve Johnson
Mt. Carmel Lutheran
Diane Myers
Home Assn of McSherrystown
Murphy Funeral Home Inc
Panebaker Funeral Home
Elinore Albright Rebert
Sharan Rinehart
Judith & Warren Risk
Belinda Sabaka
Nancy & Carl Sandruck
Myrtle Satterfield
Sally Sheaffer
Shirley C. Sheridan
Rev. Faye Snyder
Carolyn Stambaugh
Michelle Trish
Lisa & Russell Vriezen
Diana Weaver
Doris Weaver
Judie & Brian Weiss
Kenneth Wenger
Rev. Nancy Werner
Joan & Ron Witman
Cheryl & James Worley
Amy & James Yard
Jennifer Zack
Marilyn & J. Scott Zanger

Please remember the Hanover Area Council of Churches in your will or estate plan.

If you need additional information on how to word it, call the Council office 717-633-6353.

Church News

Please contact your local church for service updates and times

ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH 890 McCOSH STREET, HANOVER, PA 17331 717-637-5772

Unfortunately, as of November 21, 2020, all in-person services, committee meetings, etc., are cancelled per the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. *AA meetings that meet in the church, several times a week, are allowed to continue.*

All Saints will continue to offer on-line services: Website: <https://allsaintshanover.diocpa.org>, with links to:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/allsaintsechanover/videos>

YouTube: https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=all+saints+episcopal+church,+hanover,+pa

EMMANUEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST REV. PETER A. SEILER JR., INTERIM PASTOR

www.emmanuelucc.org

Church services are open for in-person worship with health and safety protocols -- please wear a face mask & maintain social distancing.

Livestream worship on YouTube, 10:30 am Sundays

Adult Sunday School is now by Zoom Sundays at 9 am.

For links & details or to watch recorded services, visit our website. Office hours are 9 am-1 pm, Monday - Friday.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH 200 FREDERICK STREET, HANOVER, PA. 17331 - 717-637-1574

www.firstumchanover.org

In person worship services are held Sundays at 8 AM & 9:30 AM

We're still sharing both Traditional & Contemporary online worship services:

YouTube: Traditional: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zOTRR6MHmys>

Contemporary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=We2l8tdRtqg>

GRACE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 100 FOURTH ST., HANOVER, PA. 17331 717-632-1146

www.graceucchanover.org

Business Hours: 9am - 5pm Monday – Thursday. We offer 2 in-house Sunday Services. Seating is limited / masks, social distancing & registration are required.

** Sundays @ 9am in Fellowship Hall * Sundays @ 11am in the Sanctuary*

** Virtual Sunday School @ 10am on Grace UCC Kids Facebook page*

The 24-hour Prayer/Bible Moment line offers daily devotions. 717 - 632-1819. Sermons / church calendar / Days of Grace newsletter can be found at www.graceucchanover.org and on our Facebook & Youtube pages.

With hope and by God's blessing, we will be restarting our adult Bible Study along with Sunday School and youth activities, in the near future. The sewing group has implemented a COVID compliant plan to resume its important quilt mission.

GRACE CHURCH 55 ALBRIGHT DR., HANOVER, PA. 17331

Children's Sunday School is still looking for volunteers, if you would like to teach Sunday School or volunteer in any way with the children's program, please contact Meredith Howard.

The Rainbow Room is looking for one more person to provide childcare. Interested candidates can contact Meredith Howard at 917-664-7222.

HANOVER FIRST CHURCH OF GOD 600 FAIRVIEW AVE, HANOVER, PA

www.hanoverbeacon.org

Sunday Services - Traditional at 9:00am Contemporary at 10:30am.

We're also streaming Online at 10:30 am

Grief Share Monday evenings 6:30pm in Room 105

HANOVER CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
601 WILSON AVENUE, HANOVER, PA. 17331
717.632.2267

www.HanoverCOB.org

Blood Drive
Thursday, April 22, 2021
12 to 6 PM
Hanover COB
601 Wilson Ave.
Contact 1-800-771-0059
to schedule a time to donate.

Church News

Please contact your local church for service updates and times

ST. JACOB'S UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 5152 STONE CHURCH RD., GLENVILLE, PA 17329 717-212-9122

www.stonechurchucc.org

Worship is available for those without the internet and those with internet. At 11am you can find the ZOOM link to join the video worship experience on the Church Facebook page. The video worship service is also available there for viewing or downloading all through the week. Scroll down to Videos and click on "see all". Both worship videos and VBS videos are there.

You will drive to the Upper Cemetery at the direction of the ushers, and park where indicated. We will be using a sound system to amplify the sound and ask that you also tune in your car radio to 88.5 AM.

Easter Worship Service—Sunday, April 4, 2021 at 10am in the upper cemetery.

Memorial Day Service—Sunday, May 30, 2021 at 10am in the upper cemetery.

ST. MATTHEW LUTHERAN CHURCH 30 W. CHESTNUT ST., HANOVER, PA. 717-637-7101

Indoor worship services have begun. Worship on Saturdays at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall & Sundays at 10:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary.

Our Outdoor/Drive-In Worship Service will continue on Sundays at 9:00 a.m. weather permitting.

Masks are required in the building and our seating is with social distancing. Temperatures are taken upon entering the building. In case of rain, please check our website at www.stmatthlutheran.org or call the church office and we will have a message regarding a cancellation, . God bless!

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH, 100 EAST WATER STREET, ABBOTTSTOWN, PA 17301

717-259-0796

St. John's Lutheran Church will not have regular service in the Sanctuary until further notice.

WORSHIP @ HOME WITH ST. JOHN'S EVERY SUNDAY at 10am –

Facebook live: <https://www.facebook.com/St.JohnsAbbottstown/live>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCLYusK7PV28KOqSVH6xpbFA>

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9078365134?pwd=OE2K002Vky4b0JCeWx5T2U3YmRRQT09>, or by dialing +1 (929)205-6099. Use the Meeting ID #: 907 836 5134, Password: 407818

After each worship service on ZOOM, Pastor Shawn will host a time to connect & share by clicking the link.

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH 127 YORK ST., HANOVER, PA. 17331 717-637-5941

www.stpaulsyorkst.org

Check out our website or call for news & updates! If no one is in the office, the calls will be forwarded to our Administrative Assistant. Please leave a message and your call will be returned.

Job Opening: Sexton Part-time position. Physical ability to lift/carry up to 25 pounds. Perform full range of cleaning and disinfecting functions. Maintain grounds. Minimum 2 years experience as janitor or housekeeper. PA Child Abuse Clearances required. Send resume to the above address and/or email.

No phone calls, please.

TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH IN JEFFERSON 6 YORK STREET, CODORUS, PA 17311

Website: trinityjefferson.church

Facebook: Trinity Jefferson

Sunday Worship Schedule:

Option A: Worship from Home with our Facebook Live ("Trinity Jefferson") broadcast of the 9:00 service.

Option B: Indoor Worship at 9:00 & 10:45. Masks required.

Option C: Outdoor Worship at 10:00 at the Rear Entrance.

ST. MARK EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH 129 CHARLES STREET HANOVER, PA 17331

www.stmarkhanover.org

If attending in person: We ask that you follow certain guidelines: If sick, please stay at home and worship online; wear a mask completely over mouth and nose; when entering and exiting the church please make use of the hand sanitizer stations. Keep a six-foot separation between you and others; Sit in Green marked Pews for 3:30pm Worship; Sit in Blue marked Pews for 7:00pm Worship.

Encouraging our Community

St Jacob's United Church of Christ - Drive-In Donation

Don Miller & Lorelei collect donations
for local charities.

(All Photos by Johanna Judy)

Looking forward to 2021

Drive-In Donation

Saturday's:

February 27, 2021

March 27, 2021



Third Drive-In Donation Saturday for Stone Church, and the generosity of our members is truly commendable. We were fortunate that the weather cooperated on the day after Christmas. Remember that we had about 11 inches of snow a week ago, and on Christmas Eve, that snow melted in steady rain with gusting winds. Temperatures dropped, and by Dec. 26th, the high temperature was 29 ° F with light winds. For most of the day, the sky was overcast, but for a brief moment, the sun came out and warmed us up. Sally Kaltreider pulled up with a smile and donations, warming our hearts. Don set up his car to block the wind and placed a plywood board to cut the wind down. He also brought Mr. Buddy Heater, which helped keep us warm.

Now let's get to the stats:

1. Personal Kits for PAL clients on Christmas Day—Don received \$50.00 from the Sunday School. He has been fully paid back for his purchases. Any new donations will go toward 2021.
2. Non-Perishable Food Items: Ruth's Harvest - 257 God's Meal Barrel - 33 PAL - 32 Coats of Friendship - 21 Changing Lives Shelter (HACC) - 20 Warming Tree—(Total items to be donated) - 212 items (hats, gloves, mittens, scarves, socks)



Ladies Uplifting Ladies United ("LULU")

LULU was founded by a young woman, Mary Heath, who set out to create a brand that wasn't afraid to uplift women of all ages, race, ethnicity and religion. We are a faith based, not-for-profit organization with our community in mind. Our sole purposes are to encourage, build self-esteem and empower each woman, one purse at a time.

With support from our friends, family and local businesses we are able to aid many women in need by collecting gently used and new purses, along with an array of travel-sized items to fill each purse. Over the years, it has been our honor to gift LULU filled purses to women of our Community and beyond, free of charge. Gifting purses from one woman to another.

Periodically, we hold evnts for women to gather together, have an evening to celebrate each other, speak freely and exchange resources. All are encouraged to email or Instagram for further information to donate goods, make a monetary contribution, recommend a recipient and stay up to date with our events.


It is our privilege to welcome you to our LULU family and we look forward to your continued support.

God Bless!

Email: Lovingupliftingladiesunited@gmail.com // Instagram: [@_lulunited](https://www.instagram.com/_lulunited)

February



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Board of Directors & Ministries Board Meeting 7:00 PM –HACC Better Living WHVR 10am	2 Groundhog Day Clothing Bank 9am-noon	3 Clothing Bank 9am-noon	4 Clothing Bank 9am-noon	5 Celebrate Recovery 7pm-9:30pm	6 NA meeting 7pm HACC
7 AA mtg 8am Smart Recovery 7:30-9:30pm	8 Clothing Bank 9am-noon	9 Clothing Bank 9am-noon	10 Clothing Bank 9am-noon	11 Clothing Bank 9am-noon	12 NA meeting 7pm HACC	13 NA meeting 7pm HACC
14 Valentine's Day AA mtg 8am Smart Recovery 7:30-9:30pm	15 President's Day Clothing Bank 9am-noon	16 Clothing Bank 9am-noon NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	17 Ash Wednesday Clothing Bank 9am-noon	18 Clothing Bank 9am-noon Finance Committee Mts. HACC—5pm	19 NA meeting 7pm HACC	20 NA meeting 7pm HACC
21 AA mtg 8am Smart Recovery 7:30-9:30pm	22 Clothing Bank 9am-noon	23 Clothing Bank 9am-noon	24 Clothing Bank 9am-noon	25 Clothing Bank 9am-noon Community Needs Mtg. 3pm	26 NA meeting 7pm HACC	27 NA meeting 7pm HACC
28 AA mtg 8am Smart Recovery 7:30-9:30pm	 <p>Hanover Cares: House the Homeless</p>					

The Hanover Area Council of Churches Executive Director, received the following Article, anonymously. After reading, she thought it had merit and wanted to share.

“We were wrong”

By Keith Stewart

WARD BREHM ONCE wrote, “They say that if God wants to get your attention, he will toss a little pebble into your life. If that doesn’t work, he will throw a rock. As a last resort, he will heave a brick!”

Africa was definitely my brick. It rocked my world in ways I never anticipated. Seeing with my own eyes the devastation caused by extreme poverty, lack of access to clean water, the HIV and AIDS pandemic, and preventable diseases like malaria truly made me wonder how anyone could be as willfully blind as I was. I used to say, I went to Africa to help save Africa. Now I know God had the opposite in mind. He brought Africa into my life to save me.

Not long after that fateful trip, while running at White Rock Lake in Dallas, I sensed God say to me, “I want you to apologize to the community for the kind of church you have been.” I instantly knew exactly what he meant. I don’t know how I knew it. I just did.

The church took out a full-page ad in the Dallas Morning News. In large, bold letters in the center of the page it read, “WE WERE WRONG.”

At the bottom of the page was our apology:

***We followed trends when we should have followed Jesus.
We told others how to live but did not listen ourselves.
We live in a land of plenty, denying ourselves nothing,
While ignoring our neighbors who actually have nothing.
We sat on the sidelines while AIDS ravaged Africa.
We were wrong; we’re sorry.
Please forgive us.***

The only other thing printed on the page was our church name, phone number, and website. We offered no explanation beyond the words of our apology, because explanations at the point of apology always sound like excuses. We only wanted to speak the truth about our behavior and offer a sincere apology to those whom we had hurt.

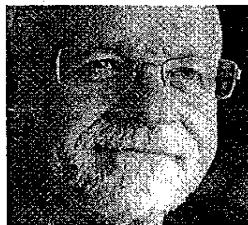
Sadly, the church today is better known for its political stance than helping the poor, feeding the hungry, or helping to heal the hurting. Do we dare believe the church could be known for its love and compassion more than its rhetoric and judgments? That’s one risk I am willing to take.

In the years since our apology, Springcreek Church has become an entirely different church. Hundreds and hundreds of children now have sponsors. The Nyakach Valley of Kenya has networks of wells, pipes, and water kiosks to serve thousands who used to fetch water from polluted lakes and streams. Children no longer regularly fall ill to easily preventable diseases like they once did. Everything for them has changed, as has everything for us.

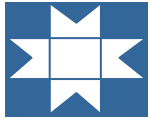
I sincerely believe God’s work done in God’s way will always be mutually transformational. We are as changed by the work we are doing as the people we intend to serve. Our investment in our friends overseas has profoundly enriched our church family. They have taught us so much about true wealth — to be rich in faith, hope, and love.

In addition, we are assured in Scripture that God always hears the widow and the orphan’s prayer. I sometimes wonder about my own prayers, but I am supremely confident about theirs. So, every day, on the other side of the world, there are widows and orphans who fall on their knees in the dirt and bless our name to God. This is the highest blessing anyone can receive in life — to be blessed by the least of these.

I never could have imagined how much three little words would totally transform my world — we were wrong.



Keith Stewart is the senior pastor at Springcreek Church in Garland, Texas. He is the author of *We Were Wrong*, the story of his radical transformation through following Jesus in the margins.



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Provide-A-Lunch

* Church or Organization for Pal team : 6-week rotation throughout the year, approximately 6 members to cook , serve & clean up in the soup Kitchen.

Clothing Bank

*M-F sorters and organizers 8:30 am - 1pm. (any time between these hours)

Changing Lives Shelter

*Weekends & Weekday hours available

Meals on Wheels

Drivers/Runners & Substitute 11:00-12:30 pm