



## *A Message from Interim Pastor Diane Curtis*

### **Tennis, Anyone?**

I spent a few days at the U.S. Open Tennis Tournament last week watching most of the top players in the world compete. Their skill is amazing! Painting the lines, putting the ball in the very corner of the court, dropping the ball over the net, and returning a 100 mph serve placed where he/she wants it takes lots of practice as well as a willingness to risk losing a point or even a match if the shot goes awry.

One thing that impresses me about these players is their ability to adapt their game to how the opponent is playing. Yet, even with the changes in strategy and tactics, the strengths of the player remain constant. Whether it is a powerful serve or a backhand with pinpoint accuracy, these remain the backbone of their game.

Adaptability and flexibility are key facets of our ministry as Faith Church. We have to stay on top of the changes in our community and in the world so that we can respond appropriately and continue to connect with those outside our church community. Jesus taught his disciples that we are to “be in the world but not of the world.” Being in the world locally takes stepping outside of the walls of the building, walking through our neighborhoods, reading the local news, and talking with those who live and work in our community. Paying attention to what we see and hear allows us to adapt and flex to respond in ways that meet the real needs of the people rather than the needs we think they have.

Even as we become more adaptable and flexible as a church, the backbone of our ministry remains our faith in Jesus Christ. Just as the tennis player doesn’t ignore the strengths of his/her game, we have to continually turn to Christ, the one who gives us strength.

In Christ’s service,  
Pastor Diane



## HOPE Garden Harvest Update

**HOPE Garden has hit the 1,000 pound mark!** This vital community ministry grows produce for so many including **Christian Caring Center, My Brother's Keeper, Urban Promise, Medford Lions Club, New Visions, Migrant Workers and Local Families**. The angels at **Indian Acres** have donated many pounds of vegetables. Their partnership is a blessing to the HOPE Garden community.

Here's a message to all Friends of HOPE Garden! Jennifer, the Church and Community Relations Director at UrbanPromise, sends **THANKS** for the weekly donations of fresh vegetables from our garden. She writes: *"Thank you to all who plant the seeds, till the garden, water the plants, weed, and pray for a good harvest! UrbanPromise has been blessed by your produce. We are using it in a multitude of ways:*

- *For the food co-op on Saturday mornings. We have 180 families registered for the co-op. There are demonstrations on how to use these vegetables and for people to taste them.*
- *For our youth to use for cooking class.*
- *As an offering to the staff.*

*Your gift helps to nourish the body and soul of our neighbors, youth, and staff. Thank you for sharing!!"*

**The Annual Harvest Party is Saturday, September 12 at 5 pm.** Contact Mary Currie for details.



*Tracey attacks weeds! Urban Promise cooks with HOPE veggies! Indian Acres donates!*



## Date Change for Faith Sunday School Kick-off

Rescheduled to Sunday, September 20 at 10:45 a.m.

*Food! Crafts! Fun for all ages!*

**Children of all ages** will learn together in a new, Bible-focused, interactive class that will help them discover what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ in today's world.

### **Adult Class:** *God's Answers to Life's Difficult Questions*

Does God provide direction for everyday struggles? This class will discuss answers to six of life's toughest questions about stress, failure, confidence, significance, loneliness and change. Video discussion from Rick Warren (*The Purpose Driven Life*) will include a look at examples of people from the Bible who faced similar issues. Class discussion will emphasize lessons that we can learn and apply to our lives. **Facilitator: Nathan Buurma**

## International Day of Peace

Sunday, September 20 starting at noon

Protestant Community Church (PCC) in Medford Lakes

PCC is hosting an event called "**Peaceable Kingdom**" to celebrate **International Day of Peace** on September 20.

12:00 -The event begins with a Parade of Peace from PCC to Vaughn Hall.

12:15 - The Urban Promise Singers will perform.

12:30 - Music, fellowship and food

1:00 - First workshops - including our **Prayer Shawl Ministry** on the 1st floor of the Todd Building.

2:00 - Second workshops – including our **Sleep Mat Ministry** on the 2nd floor of the Todd Building.

There will be a blessing of the animals, yoga and tai chi workshops and more. Follow this link to the PCC brochure: <http://protestantcommunitychurch.org/peaceDay.php>

## Save the Date - Flu and Pneumonia Immunization Clinic – October 18

A Rite Aid pharmacist will administer flu and pneumonia vaccinations right after worship. Stay tuned for details on signing up! Details for both events will be in the bulletin. Contact Bob Casey with any questions.



## DRESS-A-GIRL Mission Project

**Sponsored by:** Haddon Heights FPC Mission Committee and Presbyterian Women

**Date:** October 3, 2015

**Time:** 9AM – 12 Noon

**Place:** in our Church Parlor

**To benefit:** Missions in Haiti, Costa Rica and Africa

The mission project of “Dress-a-Girl” is a wonderful, heartwarming chance to make a difference in the lives of young girls. The first gathering date is Saturday, October 3 from 9 AM to 12 Noon in our church parlor. Whether you sew or not, you are welcome to join in our morning of craft. There is plenty to do other than sewing. We look forward to learning from our friends who are coming to teach us to create these cute T-shirt dresses.

Everyone can help by donating needed supplies:

- ❖ children’s t-shirts (plain but not white and not with a design)
- ❖ buttons 1” or larger of different colors and shapes
- ❖ fabric

Contact Carole Leadbeater at 856-546-7257 if you are able to attend and for further information. **Haddon Heights First Presbyterian Church** is located at 28 Seventh Avenue, Haddon Heights at the corner of 7<sup>th</sup> and Green Streets. Our website is [fpchaddonheights.org](http://fpchaddonheights.org).



This is a great opportunity to partner with another Presbyterian Church for an important mission project.

*Do you feel called to join them or to donate supplies?*

*Then listen to the call!*

Why not organize a small group to attend this workshop and continue to help them or bring the idea back to Faith as a new mission? It’s your church and your world – make a difference in both!