



## *A Message from Interim Pastor Diane Curtis*

Snow is coming again tomorrow (March 4<sup>th</sup>). Not much, but it is still snow. Sometimes, just when we think spring has taken hold, it snows. Here we are in the midst of our spiritual preparation for Easter with its flowers, new spring clothes, and glorious celebration of the risen Christ and it snows. Again we are reminded that the road to new life is not what we expect.

Lent is a time of expectation, as well as a time of preparation. From those words at the conclusion of the Ash Wednesday service – “Remember you are dust and to dust you will return” – through the weeks of thought, prayer, and confession, to the shouts of “Hosanna!” on Palm Sunday we consider again who we are and whose we are. Then we, like the disciples who followed Jesus, experience the emotional ups and downs of Holy Week, the recalling of Christ’s last week on earth.

Palm Sunday is the tipping point of the season of Lent. On Palm Sunday, our focus changes from ourselves to Jesus, although, as did the disciples, we waver back and forth that last week before Easter. How can we wave palms on Sunday and experience the Last Supper and Good Friday in one week? And then celebrate the resurrection at the end of it all? The truth is we can’t.

We can’t, at least not without spiritual confusion. A confusion such as led many of the disciples to run away at the crucifixion or deny that they even knew Jesus at all. Just as Peter was confronted with the reality that he really could deny his Teacher, so we, too, must consider who do we follow, whose we are. Where does our allegiance lie, with ourselves or with Jesus? Until we confront this question within ourselves, we can’t truly, completely, celebrate the resurrection on Easter Sunday.

Easter Sunday is the culmination of Lent. After the forty days of prayerful introspection, repentance, and recommitment to our faith in Jesus Christ we celebrate that we are his, that Christ is our Lord and Savior, that we again have become Easter people.

Prepare and celebrate. That is where our journey through Lent leads us. From the ashes, to the palms, to the cross, and to the resurrection. He is risen, he is risen indeed!

Easter blessings,  
Pastor Diane



## *Celebrate the Season with Worship!*

**March 20** – Palm Sunday

**March 24** – Maundy Thursday 7:30 pm Communion Service

**March 25** – Good Friday

**12:00 pm** Service at Medford United Methodist Church led jointly by the staff of St. Peter's Episcopal, Medford United Methodist, and Faith Presbyterian Churches

**5:00 pm** service at Faith followed by a soup supper

**March 27** – Easter

**6:30 am** Sunrise Service at Camp Ockanickon followed by a continental breakfast in the dining hall

**9:30 am** Easter Service at Faith with Music led by the Handbell Choir, Organ and Band



*He is not here;  
he has risen,  
just as he  
said. Come  
and see the  
place where  
he lay.*

Matthew 28:6



## Sleep Mat Workshop Update

We had great fun making mats in January and February. It's not too late to join us! **We've completed two mats and have four more partially made!** We're blessed to be teaching other churches including Lutherans, Quakers and the Protestant Community Church. **We will teach you how to help!** March is our last month to meet and work on mats every Saturday from 10 to noon. Keep bringing your plastic bags for us. We use hundreds every Saturday.





## Church Bulletin Board

**Music Director Search:** The committee has been meeting regularly and is encouraged with the progress that has been made seeking candidates and checking references. Please continue to pray that God will direct us to the right candidate and a blessed music ministry at Faith Church.

**Dotty Cooper Farewell:** Join us for cake and hugs on March 13 during Fellowship. Dotty is visiting us one more time for a proper send-off!

**Vacation Bible School:** VBS is coming June 27 through July 1. We will be going on a "Deep Sea Discovery." Registration details coming soon.

### *A Celebration of the Ministry of Rev. Diane Curtis*

After the church service on **March 20, 2016**, Faith Church will have an opportunity to celebrate the year of fine ministry and leadership that Rev. Diane Curtis has brought to Faith Church. At the February Session meeting, Session voted **unanimously** to renew Diane's contract with Faith for a second year. Session members want to celebrate that she will continue to be with us for a while longer. **Please join this special celebration on March 20.**

### **Eye on Stewardship – April 2016**

The **"Together in Faith" Mission Study Team** is working on our behalf to discern God's future for Faith Church. Working alongside them, the **Stewardship Team** (Tim Pauza, Nathan Buurma, Norm Mackey, Pastor Diane) is planning a season of commitment to our future. Adult Sunday School begins again on April 3<sup>rd</sup> with a study exploring stewardship. Pastor Diane will preach a sermon series, ***Living for God***, beginning in late April ending with **Commitment Sunday on May 22**. Watch for information about the Adult Class in the bulletin and an initial letter from the team the week of April 4th.



*Happy Easter!*