



A Message from Interim Pastor Diane Curtis

Good news!

We have good news to share. The Session has approved the report of the Together in Faith Mission Study Team and has hired a new Music Director (more info within these pages)! We have taken important steps into the future of Faith Church. Of course the greatest Good News is the foundation of our faith: the message of salvation through Jesus Christ. Sharing this news is the focus of all we do. Faithful stewardship of the resources God has given us provides the tools to proclaim and live out **the** Good News. The future that God is leading Faith Church into is at hand. Now it is time to begin living into that future.

Stewardship is a key part of our future. As followers of Christ we are called to manage the resources he has given us. The offering of our gifts and talents, our commitment to service, our care for creation, and our giving of financial resources are ways we demonstrate our love for and faithfulness to the Lord. Our stewardship campaign provides the opportunity for you to make an investment in the future of Faith Church.

On May 22nd we will dedicate our pledges for the 2016-2017 fiscal year. The financial commitments each of us makes will help the Session in creating a budget for the next year. As you prayerfully consider your pledge keep in mind the Lord's future for Faith Church. A new Music Director is on board, and a permanent pastor, new and continuing ministries, and a new beginning are right in front of us. Thanks be to God for his overwhelming blessings!

In Christ,
Pastor Diane



Rummage Sale This Saturday!

**We need your help for the Rummage Sale!
Friday Evening, May 6 and Saturday, May 7**

1. **Donate items** Friday evening, May 6 between 7 and 9 pm.
2. Help us **sort and price** items Friday evening between 7 and 9 pm.
3. Help during the **busiest time** of the sale – Saturday, May 7 from 6:30 am to 12 noon.
4. Help **ALL DAY** on Saturday from 6:30 am to 3 pm on Saturday, May 7
5. Help **clean up** on Saturday from 1 pm to 3 pm.
6. Come and **SHOP, SHOP, SHOP!**

Item #1 is the most important. **PLEASE** look in your closets, garage and basement and see if you have anything to donate. This is the **only** fundraiser for the HOPE Garden! Join us to help with the sale. It's **FUN!** Contact Mary Pauza with any questions.

Pentecost Flowers

Please donate by this Sunday, May 8

We will decorate the sanctuary with geraniums on **Pentecost Sunday, May 15th**. These plants will also be used to beautify our church grounds throughout the summer.

To donate, make the check out to **Faith Church** and be sure to write "**Pentecost Flowers**" in the memo.

Flowers must be ordered and paid for by this Sunday, May 8.
Any questions, please contact Erin Ford.





Sleep Mat Dedication

On Sunday, May 1, we dedicated six sleep mats during worship. Amazing! Madelyn Mears-Sheldon from the Christian Caring Center joined us to pray for the homeless and give thanks for our congregation's devotion to this ministry.

Thanks to everyone who attended sleep mat workshops and donated bags.



Introducing Our New Music Director!

The Session is excited to announce that we have a new Music Director. **Bethan Neely** begins her ministry at Faith Church on June 6th. Her first Sunday will be June 12th.

A native of Pittsburgh, PA, Bethan is a recent graduate of Westminster Choir College with a dual degree in Organ Performance and Sacred Music (Frank Cannon Musicianship Award, Summa Cum Laude, Baccalaureate Honors). While at Westminster Choir College, Bethan performed with the Westminster Symphonic Choir alongside the Berlin Philharmonic, the Vienna Philharmonic, the Philadelphia Orchestra and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra. Bethan was also a member of the Westminster Concert Bell Choir.

Bethan began piano studies at age 4 and organ studies at age 11. She has worked with many church ensembles including traditional, children and youth, gospel and praise, contemporary, instrumental and handbell. Prior to joining us, Bethan served at Newtown United Methodist Church as the organist/accompanist.



Together in Faith Update

The Together in Faith Team has completed the Mission Study Report, it was approved by Session last week and submitted to the Presbytery's committee on ministry for approval. The completion of the report is a big step forward for Faith Church and we would like to thank everyone who participated for their efforts in helping to assure we are represented accurately. Through many hours of prayer, thought and collaboration we believe that God's hand has guided us to a vision that our Church can build on, grow with and serve Him well into the future.

The next step in the process is communicating the findings of the Together in Faith Team. **There will be a Pot Luck on Sunday May 22nd** where we will share the results and have the opportunity for questions. Copies of the report will also soon be available for distribution. In advance of that we would like to present some excerpts from the report.

- We have identified who Faith Church is today, what our strengths are and some of the challenges we face. We have also identified who we serve – our surrounding community. After prayerful consideration of our challenges and opportunities, we believe God has a wonderful future in store for us. Ephesians 2:10 has helped us to crystalize our thoughts: *For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. ~ Ephesians 2:10*
- Faith Church is blessed with strengths that will guide our future. These include a congregation with love for one another and that enjoys fellowship, doing God's work together and growing in faith together. The peace and acceptance that exist within our congregation is remarkable. Our interactions with each other demonstrate that we are all God's masterpiece to be accepted, loved, cared for and celebrated. An example of this is the ease and enjoyment with which our cross generational members interact and value relationships.
- We believe that God created us anew through Christ. Our congregation values God's word in Scripture and believes that knowing Christ is the path to salvation. We understand that building a relationship with Christ is something that never ends and must be nurtured through worship, prayer and fellowship.

Doing good things for others has long been a cornerstone of our church. The support for and work of our Deacons has remained steady and substantial through all of the turmoil of the last several years. Ministries such as the HOPE Garden, the Sleep Mat Ministry, our Food Pantry and Prayer Shawl Ministry remain highly active with many members participating – and a growing number of participants from outside Faith Church. Our support of various missions both international and local in terms of financial and direct assistance is significant.

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After prayerful consideration, our committee has identified three core values that are central to Faith Church:

- Christ-centered, Scripture-based Worship
- Care for People
- Love of One Another

We have summarized these in a Mission Statement for Faith Church:

“Faith Church is a community of believers centered in Christ, caring for others and loving one another.”

This vision can be used to create specific activities for us to engage in and grow with. Pastor Diane is excited to help us begin the next phase of our journey, which will include the creation of a Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) and search for a permanent pastor. We look forward to discussing the report in detail with you and collectively transforming it from words into action.

Sincerely,

Sandy Gustavsen, Bill Hamilton, Cathy Hofmann, Brian Mackey, John Ford

BREAKING NEWS!

Just as the newsletter was being prepared for distribution, the committee received the following message:

Mission Study approved on first submission with kudos and appreciation from the Committee on Ministry.

*Blessings
Debby*

*Rev. Dr. Deborah “Debby” G. Brincivalli
Executive Presbyter*



May Calendar Items

May 7 – Rummage Sale – **SEE YOU THERE!**

May 22 - Mark your calendar for a **pot luck** on May 22! The Together In Faith committee will provide a final Mission Study report. This will be delicious and informative! Check the bulletin for sign up information.

May 15 – 29 the deacons will be collecting items to support a local **Migrant Worker Outreach** ministry. A list of items will be in a bulletin insert for the next two weeks.



Planting Day was a huge success at the HOPE Garden! Hug a gardener if you can grab one!



Church Bulletin Board

Vacation Bible School: VBS is coming June 27 through July 1. We will be going on a “Deep Sea Discovery” from 9 to noon each day. Registration forms are available on the hallway table or you can register online at www.vacationbibleschool.com/faith. Volunteers are needed. You can volunteer for one day or every day! See Linda Hamilton for details.

Prayer Shawl Ministry: Join us on May 25th from 7 to 8 pm at church for the next PSM meeting. Knit with us or knit at home! We make prayer shawls, lap robes, baby blankets, pocket prayer squares, scarves and 7x9 inch rectangles which we use to make coverlets. The projects range from small to large and we need your help! Please contact Janet Sharpe with questions or to donate yarn.

Sunday School Teachers: Please see Kay Galberg or Linda Hamilton to sign up to teach children’s Sunday School. It’s easy and **FUN!** The lessons are provided for you and an assistant will also be available.