



## *A Message from Interim Pastor Diane Curtis*

Looking forward – it's what we tend to do in January. A new year, a new start, the anticipation of what is to come, the exact place the Christmas narrative leaves us.

Anticipation and hope describe where we are now as a church. The coming year, 2017, is one that will take Faith Presbyterian Church into the future. In this year, young couples will be married, children will be born, beloved friends will move, and loved ones will pass away. During this year, our church will teach children and adults about the Bible and the Christian faith, sing praises to God in worship, help those in need both in our community and around the world, and call a new pastor. A lot for one church to do in a single year!

Yes, it is a lot to do in one year. And if only one or two or a few people had to do all of those things, it would be too much to do in a year. However, the beauty of the church is that ministry is never dependent on one or two or a few people. Sometimes, when key members move away or leave, we wonder what will happen to all the things they did. We can't imagine that anyone else could fill his or her shoes. Yet, others will come forward to take on a task or a project or a responsibility. A new person's way of doing a job may not look the same as how it was done in the past because the new person brings his or her own talents and ideas and energy to the job.

God has brought all of us together as a community of faith. The ministry of Faith Church needs each of us to do our part as we move into the future, and there is a place for each of you, no matter how busy you are, what your work schedule is, how old you are, or what you have done before in the church. You can teach or help in Sunday school (even if your children are grown), you can sing in the choir, you can serve in leadership as a deacon or an elder, you can be an usher, greeter, Worship Leader, or AV person on Sunday mornings, you can set-up tables and chairs for events, or help repair things around the church building, or you can pray for the many needs of our church and community. You can knit prayer shawls or make sleep mats. There are many other opportunities to serve as well, and I invite you to find your place.

We are on the doorstep of a new future for Faith Church. You are a part of that future as you share your talents and your time and your resources in the ministry of our church. Together, and with God's help, we can realize our dreams!

With hope,  
Pastor Diane



## Update from the Pastor Nominating Committee

The PNC asks for prayers from the congregation as they continue to review information on potential candidates, seeking God's will for His church at Faith.



## Dreaming of Spring?

Then stop by to see the new additions to the Children's Garden at the front of the church. Many thanks to Dan and the scouts for the new sign, the hand-crafted bird houses and feeders, the perennial pollinator garden, tabletop tic tac toe and so much more. Beautiful!

## New Adult Sunday School Paul: His Life and Teaching Begins January 15th

Nathanuurma leads this Bible study which will focus on the changes in Paul's life and the lessons that he explained for us. Nathan will provide some background at the beginning of each session and then the class will read selections from the Bible and engage in group discussion. All are welcome to attend. No advance reading is required and each session will be self-contained, so it is not necessary to commit to attending all 10 sessions.

## Mark Your Calendar!

Special Meeting of the Congregation

**February 5 after worship (snow date Feb. 12)**

The 2017 budget will be presented followed by a discussion of the financial status of the church.



## Mark Your Calendar for Sleep Mat Workshops!

We got snowed out so the first **Sleep Mat Workshop** will be on **Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to noon**. If you're new to the sleep mat project, you're already an expert if you can flatten a plastic bag and use scissors! All ages and skills levels are needed. Did you make a New Year's resolution to learn something new? Learn to crochet a sleep mat! Our expert crocheters will train you. Did you make a resolution to help someone in need? Sleep mats help the homeless stay dry and receiving a mat tells them that they are loved. See Bonnie Halle with any questions or to be added to the sleep mat email list.



## Chancel Flowers

It's a new year! Time to sign up to donate chancel flowers in honor or memory of a loved one. The signup sheet is on the bulletin board in the hall.



## Church Bulletin Board

**Guest Preacher:** Pastor Diane will be away from January 11 to 18. Our guest preacher on January 15<sup>th</sup> will be Reverend Wendy Boer. If you have emergency pastoral needs, contact Reverend Lory Ryan of Christ Presbyterian Church of Marlton at 609-413-6030.

**Special Congregational Meeting:** We will meet after worship on February 5 (snow date Feb. 12)

## Services for Rev. Dr. Kate Killebrew

There will be a visitation with family and friends at Collingswood Presbyterian Church (30 Fern Ave.) from 6 – 8 pm on Fri. Jan. 27 and again from 9 – 10 am on Sat., Jan. 28.

A Memorial Service / Witness to the Resurrection will be held at Collingswood Presbyterian Church at 10 am on Saturday, January 28.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Collingswood Presbyterian Church and/or the West Jersey Presbytery Peacemaking Fund.

## A New Way to Connect with Faith Church!

Faith Church is now part of a website called “**Faithstreet**”.

The URL is <http://www.faithstreet.com/search?lat=39.8741&lng=-74.809>. This takes you to the main page showing all Medford churches listed on Faithstreet. Notice that Faith is the first listing. Clicking on that link will take you to our page.

The website is <http://www.Faithstreet.com> . This is another way people can find us. Our Website is <http://www.Faithchurch.org> .

Our Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/HopeGardenatFaithChurch/> or search Facebook for HOPE Garden - our Missions - Faith Church, Medford, NJ



## Did You Know?

If you bank online, you can set up an automatic payment for your contribution to Faith Church. You'll never have to worry about forgetting your envelope!