



A Message from Interim Pastor Diane Curtis

I was playing the game of “Life” with my grandson, Logan, last week. He is attracted to this particular older version (it has been in the cupboard for years) – maybe it’s the spinner, the peg people for the car, or the buildings on the board. In any case, though, we play a simplified version and have a great time. In our version of the game, we drive our cars around the board, read the squares and follow the directions, and exchange money as directed. Everyone gets the same salary, we acknowledge that we have bought a house somewhere, and add pegs to our cars when we get married and have children. Oh, and try to win, whatever that means on a particular day (an almost 5 year old can change the rules whenever he wants it seems).

What strikes me about the game of “Life” is how unlike real life it is. Wouldn’t it be much easier to land on a square and follow the printed directions knowing that the biggest disaster may be to lose a turn? Where the goal is to reach retirement and live happily ever after? Sounds simpler and safer. Fortunately and unfortunately, real life is much more complex. The joys and heartbreaks of life create a path that takes us off the board, on to our individual detours, and into the confusion of the wilderness where there are no printed squares to guide our way.

The good news is that we have a much better, more comprehensive guide book – the Bible. Although the Bible doesn’t specifically answer all our questions, there is a wealth of information to provide direction for us in living in the real world. The Bible, the Word of God, points us to the One who always loves his creation, intends good for his people, and offers the gift of grace to everyone. Hebrews tells us that *the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword...* It is able to slice through the weeds that are overgrown in our lives and pierce our soul so that the Lord can speak to us and do his work within and through us.

All the direction we need to live a godly life is in the Bible. As we prayerfully read God’s Word, the Holy Spirit opens our hearts to learn, to grow, and to live real life in God’s way.

Blessings in Christ,
Pastor Diane



Update from the Pastor Nominating Committee

The PNC members have reviewed Pastor Information Forms (PIF) for 70 candidates. They are in the process of scheduling second interviews. There have been some good interviews and we are hopeful that one of these candidates is the one that God has called to be our new pastor at Faith. Please continue to keep our committee in your prayers.



HOPE Garden Now Has Plants!

Spring is really here! Check out the lettuce planted in the HOPE Garden. Raised beds were created and more fence repairs were made during April. Thanks to all of the volunteers for their hard work.



First Annual Faith Music Camp!

July 10 – 14 Ages 5 years to 3rd grade

Bethan will be leading our first ever Music Camp at Faith. After camp, the children will sing at church on Sunday, July 16th. Registration will be available soon.



Prayer Shawl Ministry MWO Project

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is celebrating 10 years by making pocket prayer squares for the Migrant Worker Outreach. The goal was to make 500 squares then attach scripture tags in Spanish and Haitian Creole plus beads saying "Jesus" in each language. **We ended up with 580 squares!** Thanks to everyone for helping to knit squares and string those tiny beads!



Peaceful Sonrise Service at Camp Ockinickon



VBS June 26 - 30!

9 am to noon

Ages 4 through 4th grade

\$20 per child with a max of \$40
per family (nonrefundable)

Vacation Bible School will be here before you know it! The theme is “Operation Arctic” and kids will explore the coolest book on the planet – the Bible!

We Need YOU! The Volunteer Signup is in the Bulletin

Signup for several items! Choose the days, times, tasks and age groups!

Before VBS:

Help with administrative tasks	Decorate classrooms	Build sets
Prepare craft materials	Plan decorations	Paint banners, backdrops and sets
Sewing	PRAYING!	

During VBS: (Are you available every day or only certain days?)

Exploration Group	Leader?	Helper?
Crafts	Leader?	Helper?
Snacks	Leader?	Helper?
Games	Leader?	Helper?
Music	Leader?	Helper?
Missions	Leader?	Helper?
Nursery	Leader?	Helper?
Drama	Sound/AV	Teacher
Photographer	Clean up crew	Teaching Assistant

Age Level Preference:

0 – 2 years	2 – 4 years
4 – 6 years	6 – 9 years
9 – 12 years	Wherever needed most

Complete the volunteer form in the bulletin and drop it in the offering bag. We hope to impact the lives of 100 children. **VBS is important – and fun!** Please join us!



Church Bulletin Board

Friday, May 19: Faith Church will host a memorial service for John and Grace Dalrymple at 12:30 pm.

Sunday, June 4: We're planning a potluck to rejoice with all couples who are lucky enough to celebrate 60 or more years of marriage. Save the date!

June 26 - 30: Vacation Bible School "Operation Arctic" - VBS was a huge success last year and we can't wait to do it again! There will be MANY volunteer opportunities so save the date!

2017 Per Capita – It's Not Too Late!

You can still contribute the \$38.75 (per member) per capita payment for 2017. Use the offering envelope marked "Per Capita" or write "per capita" in the memo of your check.

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!



WOW!

Sometimes, HOPE looks like dirt. The garden got an enormous load of compost soil so that raised beds could be created. Thanks for all of the backbreaking work done by the volunteers to get the beds started!