



A Message from Interim Pastor Diane Curtis

The familiar words from Ecclesiastes: “For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven,” are fresh in my mind these days. I am reminded again that my plans are not necessarily God’s plans, that my calendar doesn’t always reflect the future, and that stuff happens that is beyond my control. I can say with certainty that hip replacement surgery was definitely not in my plans or on my calendar!

Life has a way of upsetting our best laid plans or rewriting our schedule. I am among those who, in general, believe this is a good thing, for it is when disruption occurs and change is the order of the day that I grow most as a person and in my faith.

I think the same is true of churches. Spiritual growth is often the result of change. Before you cringe at the thought of changing what you love about Faith Church, consider that change can be positive as well as negative. Change allows us to consider new options; to look from a different viewpoint. We might not always like the process that leads to positive change, but the process itself is usually the most important part of creating a new thing.

Negative change, on the other hand, slows us down, usually leading to wallowing in the muck and mire of what has happened. We can choose to continue being angry or hurt, or we can choose to pull ourselves out of the muck to see what God might have in store for us. So, when bad things happen, God can use them for good – if we are willing to trust him and seek to follow his plan rather than our own.

We are nearing the end to the time of transition for Faith Church. Looking back, we can easily identify much of the negative change that is part of our past. The initial outcome seemed dismal – people were hurt and many left, well-loved programs ceased to exist, the financial picture changed drastically, and several staff members also left. The good news is that you didn’t stay in the muck but chose to go forward and are continuing on the new path God has laid before you.

Change and disruption of the status quo really is a good thing! A new season is beginning at Faith Church so embrace the changes and enjoy the adventure ahead.

Faithfully in Christ,
Pastor Diane



HOPE Garden Milestone!

We have already surpassed **300 pounds** of harvested and donated produce! Over 71 pounds arrived in a single day harvest on July 8th which included beans, kale, lettuce, collards, beets, parsley, potatoes, carrots, eggplant, cucumbers and zucchini. Donations have been made to the **CCC, Urban Promise** and the **Migrant Worker Outreach**.



Volunteers Are Needed to Serve Breakfast

Saturday, August 5 at Seeds of Hope

Faith Church is helping to serve breakfast again since we had so much fun doing this last December. **We committed to providing 10 volunteers but only have 7 so far. WE NEED YOU!** Contact Bonnie Halle for details.

Saturday Morning Outreach Breakfasts – “Every Saturday, we serve a hot breakfast (eggs, sausage, pancakes, pastries, coffee and hot chocolate) to those on the street at the VOA Building located on Atlantic Avenue in Camden. We pick people up right off the street in the ministry bus. **The Lord has been sending over 300 people each week.** Many of those who come to serve sit down with our guests and engage them in conversation and, as the Lord leads and allows, they share the reason for the hope that they have! We start setting up and cooking at 8:00am, begin serving at 9:00am and are wrapped up no later than 11:00am. We need set up people, cooks, people who can put the platters together, utensil wrappers, servers, clothing sorters, table wipers, prayer warriors for the Prayer Station and people who just want to share the love of Jesus Christ in a practical and real way.”



Operation Arctic was a VBS Success!

We hosted 50 children plus 19 youth volunteers during our VBS in June. The kids had a great time, made fabulous crafts and learned about the coolest book on Earth – the Bible!



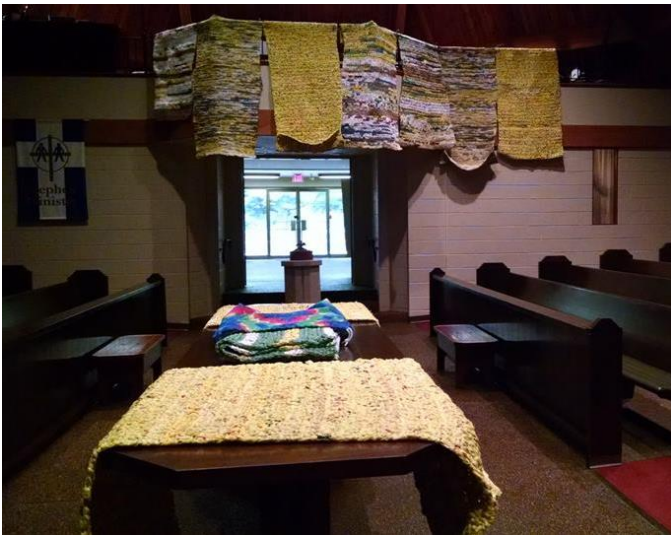
Thanks to our Faith Church volunteers!

Pastor Diane Curtis	Bethan Neely	Paige Caracuzzo	Mary Currie	Joan Zinader
Linda Hamilton	Cathy Hofmann	Charlie Hofmann	Pat Cohill	Jonathan Cohill
George Anderson	Bob Casey	Pat Carter	Steve Carter	Victoria Ebiri
Dianne Hillman	Sharon Redheffer	Bill Redheffer	Betty DiMedio	Bill Hamilton
Joyce Schreiner	Matt Schreiner	Kay Galberg	Rob Galberg	Caroline Galberg
Sandy Gustavsen	Janet Sharpe	Ginny Hagan	Betty Beck	Ginny Magnus
Bonnie Halle				



Sleep Mat Dedication

We were thrilled to have completed 12 sleep mats with help from our partner churches. The mats were dedicated during worship. They were taken, along with canvas carry bags, to the Christian Caring Center for distribution to the homeless.



Update from Pastor Diane

Pastor Diane will be having hip replacement surgery on July 18th and then will be at home recovering for a few weeks. Beginning the week of July 24th, she will be available via email and phone. We have two great pastors preaching while Pastor Diane is away:

- July 23rd – Rev. Janet Doyle. She and her family have just returned from serving as missionaries in central Asia
- July 30th and August 6th – Rev. Ivo Meilands, recently retired as pastor of Providence Presbyterian Church in Bustleton

For emergency pastoral care, contact the church office.



Welcome to Our Newest Member!

Cynthia Heald recently joined Faith Church. Cynthia lives with her husband John Heald in Marlton. She grew up in Texas and was a member of the Forest Hill Presbyterian Church in Ft Worth, Texas.

Update from the PNC

The committee would like to thank you for your prayers as we work to determine God's will regarding the next Pastor for Faith Church. We have deliberated more than 90 applications. At the present time, we are continuing the conversation with two applicants through phone, Skype and in-person interviews. The next step in the process, should the committee be led to do so, would be to hear each applicant in a neutral pulpit. We ask for your continued prayers for the committee and for God's blessing on the process and our conversations.



July in the Children's Garden



Visit to Migrant Worker Camp

Several members of Faith Church joined Dory Dickson, leader of Migrant Worker Outreach, to visit a camp in Shamong. They distributed hygiene kits, bandanas and prayer squares to the Haitian women. Over 6,000 migrant workers travel to south Jersey to pick crops each summer.



Summer Sunday School

Bring the kids! We will offer Sunday School all summer. It's great fun for visiting family members and there is always room for older kids to help.

2017 Session Committees

Session Clerk	Ginny Magnus
Building and Grounds	Norm Mackey
Communication	John Ford
Christian Education	Linda Hamilton
Finance/Treasurer	Joe Currie
Mission	Ginny Hagan
Nominating	Sharon Redheffer
Personnel	John Heald
Stewardship	John Heald
Small World	Steve Carter
Worship	Sharon Redheffer
Membership and Caring	TBD

Church Bulletin Board

Saturday, August 5: Serving breakfast at Seeds of Hope in Camden. See Bonnie Halle with any questions.

Sunday, October 15: Rite Aid will provide immunization shots after worship. See Bob Casey with any questions.

Saturday, October 21: LifeLine will provide health screenings at church. See Bob Casey with any questions.



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

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.

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!