



## *A Message from Interim Pastor Diane Curtis*

“Who do you say that I am?” Jesus asks this question of his disciples in Matthew 16:15. How would you answer this question? Would you confidently affirm, as Peter did, that Jesus is “the Messiah, the Son of the living God?” Or, might you hesitate, thinking about what your answer should be versus what it truly is? Or, maybe, you avoid the question altogether.

Faith in Jesus is living, always shifting and growing rather than static. It is organic. Our experience of our faith changes as we go through life. Sometimes we are confident in what we believe, other times we question our level of belief or wonder if we even understand what faith is or have any at all. Even though the foundation of our faith, our trust in Jesus Christ, is constant, our experience of faith’s impact in our life varies. Peter is a good example for us. Even though he affirmed who Jesus was in Matthew 16, at other times he questioned who this man he was following was, yet he still followed. After the crucifixion, he denied knowing Jesus at all, but his guilt in doing so demonstrated the commitment he had made to the Teacher. Only five weeks later, filled with the Holy Spirit, he was proclaiming his faith in Jesus to the crowds.

In just over a month we will celebrate Easter. What better time than these weeks leading up to the celebration of the resurrection than to engage actively in your faith. Reflect and ask questions. More importantly, act on what you believe. Pray for your neighbors (I had a friend once who would go out walking and stop in front of each house to pray for those who lived there). Start conversations with people who live in our community to learn about what is important to them and what their needs are. Look for opportunities to share your experience of faith with others – ways God has been working in your own life. Faith is alive! Live it!

In Christ,  
Pastor Diane



## Update from the Pastor Nominating Committee

The PNC members have been busy reviewing the Pastor Information Forms (PIF) from 62 candidates. Yes, you read that right - 62!! What a blessing but it's a lot to review. We have had initial interviews with four candidates which went well. We are planning to interview several more before deciding on those with whom we will have deeper discussions.

Continue to keep our committee in prayer that we may discern to whom God is calling to lead His church at Faith.

## Faith Church Lent Schedule

**March 12<sup>th</sup>** – Second Sunday in Lent. *The Essence of Faith*

**March 19<sup>th</sup>** – Third Sunday in Lent. *Encountering Jesus*

**March 26<sup>th</sup>** – Fourth Sunday in Lent. *Personal Testimony*

**April 2<sup>nd</sup>** – Fifth Sunday in Lent. *The Faith of Life*

**April 9<sup>th</sup>** – Palm Sunday. *A Day for the Crowd*

10:30 a.m. – Crafting Event

**April 13<sup>th</sup>** – Maundy Thursday.

7:30 p.m. Communion Service. *All In*

**April 14<sup>th</sup>** – Good Friday

12 noon - Hosting a Joint Service with St. Peter's Episcopal and Medford United Methodist churches

5:00 p.m. – *Tennebrae Readings*

**April 16<sup>th</sup>** – Easter Sunday

6:30 a.m. – Sunrise Service, Camp Ockanickon

9:30 a.m. – Easter Service. *The Message is Clear*



## One Great Hour of Sharing

It's that time of year! One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is our direct response to God's call in Isaiah 58. With your gift, you:

- Loose the bonds of injustice (Self-Development of People)
- Share your bread with the hungry (Presbyterian Hunger Program)
- Bring the homeless poor into your house (Presbyterian Disaster Assistance)

Details are in the Sunday bulletin. Fish banks are available in the Fellowship Room.



## Brian Visits Small World

Brian Mackey visited **Small World Preschool** to show the children how someone with impaired vision reads using Braille. Linda displayed the pictures for the kids while Brian read. Everyone enjoyed learning something new and celebrating Read Across America Day. Click the photo to go to the story. Photo by Dave Hernandez of BCT.

## *Small World Open House Book Fair and Art Show*

**Thursday, March 16, 5:30 to 7:30**



Come browse the wonderful selection of books at the Small World Book Fair. See the children's wonderful artwork! You can visit the classrooms and chat with the Small World staff. There will be light refreshments and lots of great books for kids and the young-at-heart!



## Chili Cook Off and Baking Contest

We had a huge turnout for our chili cook off and baking contest. There were 8 chilis and 6 desserts entered in the contest. Linda Mackey's chili won the grand prize and Ed Brennan's cheesecake took the dessert honors. Thanks to everyone who planned, set up, cooked, tasted, counted votes and cleaned up!



*The Winners!*



*Chili Chefs*



*Dessert Chefs*



## Home Knitters – We Need You!

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is celebrating its tenth year with a special outreach to south Jersey migrant workers. We plan to knit **500 pocket prayer squares** and attach scripture in Haitian Creole and Spanish. The squares will be distributed by the Migrant Worker Outreach in May. There are more than 6,000 workers so we need your help! **If you can knit at home**, please contact Janet Sharpe. She will provide you with the yarn and instructions for the pattern.

## Sleep Mat Workshop Update

We're still working on our sleep mats and now have 6 completed! We can always use help so join us every Saturday in March from 10 to noon at church. We will also meet on Saturday, April 1.





## Church Bulletin Board

**Monday, April 17:** Faith Church will host Lifeline Medical Screenings at the church. Watch the bulletin for an insert with details.

**Sunday, June 4:** We're planning a potluck to rejoice with all couples who are lucky enough to celebrate 50 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!

## 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!