

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church - 106 Walnut St., Natick, MA 01760

February 2013

Reflections from Pastor Mark

Could you walk in Jesus' footsteps for 40 days?

This is one way to think of the season of Lent, our yearly pilgrimage with Jesus through the wilderness of temptation and challenge, into the world of hurting, seeking humanity and to the cross of self-sacrifice. It is surely the most challenging season in the Christian year but also the most rewarding for those who make the effort.

Sacrifice is the word often associated with Lent, a tough word indeed, and those Lenten sacrifices usually mentioned are *prayer, penitence and fasting*. Let me say from experience that *none of these practices is particularly difficult*. As Christians we pray every day; we confess our sins on a more or less regular basis; we may even give up the occasional meal as a prayerful reminder of those who are in need.

We probably do these things almost *without a second thought* – and that is the point precisely: During Lent – if we wish to walk closely in the presence of Christ – *we will pay careful attention* to the sacrifices we make on behalf of Christ and His people. That is:

*We will make space for careful, unhurried prayer,
remembering
the needs great and small of a suffering world. Whatever
our prayer, we remind ourselves that we are in God's
holy presence.*

We will daily reflect upon our shortcomings, remembering that we have let God and our neighbor down – but never losing confidence in God's mercy.

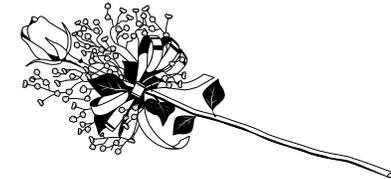
We will consume with care our daily bread. Fasting, after all, is not really about food. Rather, it is about the spirit in which we receive God's gifts. Are we greedy? Selfish? Thoughtless? During Lent, we intentionally model our behavior after Christ Jesus.

Lent is one of God's most gracious gifts to His people.

Could you walk in Jesus' footsteps for 40 days? Of course you could! Will you walk in Jesus' footsteps for 40 days?



- Pastor Mark



Staff of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

Pastor:	Rev. Mark Goad
Admin. / Newsletter Editor:	Judy Bortolotti
Deacon:	Rev. Cheryl Gates
Youth Ministers:	Josh & Deanna Leedy-Andreozzi
Choir Director /Organist:	Eric Mazonson

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Finance Update – 2012 Results, 2013 Challenges

Worship Service Participants and Nursery Volunteers for

FEBRUARY



Acolytes

February 3 – Sarah F
February 10 – Sarah F.
February 17 – Kelli G.
February 24- Rose C.

Cross bearers

Thom T.
Matt S.
Will S.



Liturgists

February 3 – Rev. Cheryl Gates
February 10 – Elizabeth Coates
February 17 – Matt Scranton
February 24- Susan Carney

Coffee Hour Hosts

February 3 – Gary & Marcia Hoyt
February 10 – Julia Jaco & Pat Price
February 17 – David & Janis Cail
February 24- Ken & Kathy Reynolds



Communion Servers

February 3 – Tom & Susan Carney

Nursery Volunteers

Nursery 9:00am

February 3– Jen G. & Jennifer F.
February 10 – Debbie F. & Jen G.
February 17 – Jen G. & Jennifer F.
February 24- Jen G. & Jennifer F.

Nursery 10:30

Scott & Jennifer F.
Sarah G. & Heather O.
Janis C. & Carol Sc.
Crystal M. & Pat P.

With the support of you, the members of the congregation, the year 2012 closed with our bills being paid, including 100% of our Conference Mission Shares for 2012 Praise God!!

The 2012 year was a financial challenge for us as a congregation. In 2011, we had been unable to pay our full Mission shares for the first time in several years. We began the 2012 year with fewer pledges and a deficit budget. However, we were blessed with increased pledge and financial support from many of you. Our expenses were less than planned. We also utilized precious cash reserves, as well as resources under the care of the Trustees. With prayerful discernment, we elected to fulfill our commitment to our connected Conference.

This year will also be a challenge. As a congregation, we have responded with an increase in pledges and financial support as a result of our Stewardship Campaign...thank you. However, our obligations continue. Our church budget, our spending, is to support ministries, which touch so many people in so many ways: education, evangelism, worship, local ministries, children, youth, families, seniors. Our budget provides pastoral leadership, dedicated staff, facilities to worship, meet, and minister. At present, we are working to close a deficit and present a budget in February.

As a congregation, we have responded in the past, and with prayer, cooperation, intentional dedication to growing our church, and HIS grace, we will respond and succeed in 2013.

Members of Finance Committee, which includes representatives from other committees at Fisk:

Michael Bruns (Chair), Pastor Mark Goad, Dorothy Phillips (Lay Leader), Thom Townsend (Chair-Admin Board), David Cail (Treasurer), Sherry Culver (Financial Secretary), Geoff DelSesto (Trustees), Tom Currie (SPRC), Larry Drolet, Jen Garrant..



Time to Walk Away Homelessness !

Saturday, February 9th 8:30am - 10am

Inside the Natick Mall

TAKE A HIKE with us! Join the Fisk UMC team to raise money for our local mission project: Family Promise Metrowest (formerly MIHN).

The fourth annual Walk-a-thon is coming up on Saturday February 9th. This is the biggest fundraiser of the year for Family Promise Metrowest, lots of fun, with refreshments and a few donated prize drawings. Each person in our congregation has the opportunity and ability to participate. 100% of your contributions will go towards supporting housing, job placement, childcare, tutoring, health services, clothing and transportation for homeless families.

Let's make the Fisk Team the largest group at the Walk-a-thon this year. You and your friends are invited and encouraged to join us. And if you can't join us walking, come cheer us on from the rally point. You can help sponsor one of us on the walking team: members of the Fisk Team will be asking for donations during the next few weeks.

If you have questions, or to sign-up to walk or to donate to the team, please contact Debbie Friscino, our Fisk-FP liaison, or sign up as a walker or sponsor using the link on the Family Promise Metrowest website: <http://www.familypromisemetrowest.org/>

Together we can help Walk Away Homelessness



Ah, Success! (One further word from Pastor Mark)

Reflecting, recently, upon the future of our church, I made of list of what I, with many other pastors and church consultants, regard as signs of a healthy, growing, successful congregation. I will here share my list with you but with one advisory: There are many definitions of success. Essential to being successful as the Church of Jesus Christ is our being faithful to Jesus Christ in our ministry, mission, worship, and our personal living as disciples. Having said that, there are many good-hearted congregations that show signs of faithfulness but grow weaker every year.

Signs of a Successful Congregation (in no particular order):

They are “disciple-making.”

(Are more concerned with spiritual growth and ministry than membership)

Offer new programs on a regular basis.

Are mission-driven.

(Even financially! Not “how much money have we got?” but “What are we called to do?”)

Share a vision.

(They are focused on the hopes and dreams of the body)

Leaders lead.

(Leaders are respected and expected to lead by example and with authority)

Disciples are connected in small groups.

(Imagine if every member of Fisk attended a Bible study, fellowship group, spiritual growth group every week!)

Are permission-giving.

(Disciples are invited to try new ideas and ministries)

Are risk taking.

(The past is past. In what brave new ways are we being led into the future?)

Are out in the world.

(Disciples take the Good News into the community)

They believe in prayer and are Spirit-led.

This is my list. What is yours? MG

Greetings from your new Fisk Lay Leader!!

I am Dorothy Jean Phillips and I am so excited! Those words are often uttered by my granddaughter Elizabeth when we are about to embark on one of our outings. I declare this state of excitement because I have stepped out on faith to be your new Lay Leader at Fisk. I am glad to serve God and you, the members of Fisk, in this new role. *I am so excited!*

Let me introduce myself: I have been a member of Fisk for 28 years, having taught Sunday School and served on several committees; Married to James for 45 years; Mother of three adult children including Crystal (husband Stephen) Mayo; and Grandmother of Logan and Elizabeth Mayo, plus grandsons in Atlanta; Daughter of a Baptist Minister and a Deaconess (respectfully known as Mother Wingfield); Scientist and/or a member of the marketing staff for thirty-eight years in industry; Favorite scriptures: Jeremiah 29:11 and Philippians 4:13.

I thank Debi Henry who served Fisk as Lay Leader and set the bar high for this role.

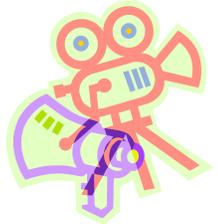
I am so excited to work with our Pastor Mark Goad to realize the vision God has for Fisk and to get to know you better as we walk together in Christ. *Stepping out on Faith as Lay Leader, willing to land where God and His son Jesus lead us.*



We are broadcasting portions of our Sunday Service on the Natick Pegasus local Access channel. The portion being broadcast is about 30 minutes in length and includes music, liturgy and the sermon. As you probably know, the access channel is in different places depending on your cable provider. Here are the channels for your reference: Comcast: 99, RCN: 03, Verizon: 29

The weekly schedule varies and the services will broadcast a few times during a given week, including on Sunday Mornings at 11AM. The most recent service will broadcast on Sunday but you may see others from previous weeks at other time slots during the week.

If you happen to see one of the services and have some feedback about the broadcast, we love to hear from you! For the current schedule visit <http://www.natickpegasus.org>.



Sherry Culver sherrycd@comcast.net and Leo Jaco s21mita@aol.com

Ministry of Caring



Do you like to talk on the telephone? The phone lines are coming to life once again as members of Fisk call members of our church family to check in with them, see how life is going, prayer needs, meal needs, transportation needs, cleaning needs? How can we as a church family help? You would call 10 people once a month. If you are interested in helping as a grace caller, please contact Sarah Gates or Debi Henry.

Opportunities for our Lenten Pilgrimage

Ash Wednesday Worship

February 13 – 7:00 pm

Lenten Retreat Day with Pastor Mark and Deacon Cherlyn

“Walking with Jesus”

February 16 – 9:00 am-1:30 pm

Lenten Soup Suppers: Devotions from Iona

Weekly, beginning on February 20, 6:30-7:30 pm

Child Care Provided

Sunday Morning Adult Class with Pastor Mark

“The Way of the Cross”

Weekly, beginning on February 17, 9:10 am



Bible Study



**Join us as we study the book of Mark.....
taught by Pastor Goad**

**Tuesdays at 10:30am in Ogle Parlor beginning
February 12th**

See Pastor Mark for more information

UMYF

Hello Friends and Family, blessings and peace be with you throughout your days. The Youth Group continues to be active members in the church. Matt served as liturgist in January and other youth are looking forward to serving in this way.

Our Sunday School curriculum has been challenging and educational. LinC (Learn in Christ) links current events with scriptures. The youth have found it most helpful in making scripture relevant to their personal lives. Youth Group has been regularly attended, and many valuable relationships have bloomed.

We are planning several events in the future! The youth retreat is planned for Feb 22-24. Please keep us in prayer as we plan our lessons and activities. We seek to challenge and change the youth toward vibrant relationships with Christ.

We are also planning a 30 hour famine to raise support and awareness of hungry children throughout the world. This event is scheduled in April and we will be reaching out to other youth groups in the area to partner with.

Finally I leave you with words of encouragement from Methodist founder John Wesley;

“Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences.”

— John Wesley

“Earn all you can, give all you can, save all you can”

— John Wesley

“Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can.” *— John Wesley*

-Josh Leedy-Andreozzi-

UMYF Retreat Grocery List

Fisk's Youth Group is going on a winter weekend retreat on February 22-24, 2013. Remember the "pantry pounding" that Thom and Janis coordinated for Pastor Mark at the parsonage when he first came to lead us? Same great idea – just different group and groceries! If you can provide any item(s) for the weekend, please put them on the table in the Youth Minister's office (next to the Library) by February 20th with the item circled and this sheet attached to the item. We are also collecting grocery gift cards to Hannaford's or Shaw's (two grocery stores near Wanakee where frozen and refrigerator items - milk, OJ, meats – can be purchased instead of packed. Thank you!
For more information or to give a gift card, please see Debi Henry, or Marcia Hoyt

Your Name: _____

sturdy paper plates	aluminum foil	white bread
paper cups	hot cups	napkins
paper towels	plastic wrap	trash bags
hot dog rolls	pita pockets	wheat bread
hamburger rolls	ketchup	mustard
maple syrup	pancake mix	instant coffee
hot chocolate packets	tea bags	juice boxes
marshmallows	Hershey Bars	Ritz
graham crackers	granola bars	grape jelly
tuna fish	Cheerios	mayonnaise

Sudbury Savoyards - "The Gondoliers"

Sudbury Savoyards is a community theater organization that produces one Gilbert & Sullivan comic opera every spring. This year - *The Gondoliers!* Savoyards productions have a large chorus and this spring, Marilyn Carr is a member of the chorus. All of the profit of its productions are donated for the relief of world hunger and go to

UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief).
Friday, February 22 - Saturday, February 23 at 8:00 PM
Sunday, February 24 at 2:00 PM
Friday, March 1 at 8:00 PM
Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School Theater
390 Lincoln Road - Sudbury, MA 01776
Tickets: Adults \$24 - Seniors/Students \$18
Children (under 12 yrs. old) \$12
Contact Marilyn Carr for more information or tickets.

Souper Bowl of Caring 2013



Fisk's Step-Up Kids (Grades 3-5) and Pop-Up Kids (Pre-K - Grade 2) are collecting cans/boxes of soup and collecting change in soup pots and bowls on **Sunday, February 3, 2013** following worship. Kids and adults will count \$ directly after church - Let's see how many cans of soup we collect. Soup cans and money will go to the Natick Food Pantry Help us along with 12,000+ other groups across the country tackle hunger!

Hattie B. Cooper Community Center

1891 Washington Street, Roxbury MA 02118

617-445-1813

www.cooperctr.org

What is the

Cooper Community Center?

Cooper is a Community Center in Boston, begun 97 years ago by a couple of Methodists, hoping to make a safe place for the children of the neighborhood to play, learn and socialize. Cooper provides for underserved children and their families'---vital educational services that facilitate growth, development, and creative groundwork for their future success, while supporting their families in various ways.

Cooper is one of the 99 NATIONAL MISSION SITES of the United Methodist Church. It is the only such agency in New England. It is ours to visit, support, pray for, and help with hands-on projects.

It is a NEW DAY at Cooper!

For many, many months we have been working on a plan to move the Infant and Toddler Program to the Washington Street site (from Jamaica Plain). PRAISE GOD, it has happened!

They are all moved in and getting adapted to the new space. The classroom they occupy was completely gutted and transformed into a lovely, clean, bright room for these 19 infants and toddlers. New cribs, new high chairs, new windows, rugs etc. make it a wonderful place "to be and to grow."

What can we do?

Fisk has planned a workday at Cooper on February 2. Plan to join us and be part of a "hands-on Mission project." You will see what the United Methodist Church is doing for these urban kids to give them some better opportunities.

Programs

Cooper has programs for over 100 children daily, including Infants-Toddlers, Preschool and Afterschool care. We have a wonderful Computer Lab for teaching and for the use by staff as well as members of the community. At times, we have been the home of a group of elderly who come to work together, socialize and have a hot meal. This is in the future plans for the current building situation.

We have a summer program that includes trips to museums and parks. We try to get the children out of the city for some other outdoor experiences.

Our needs...

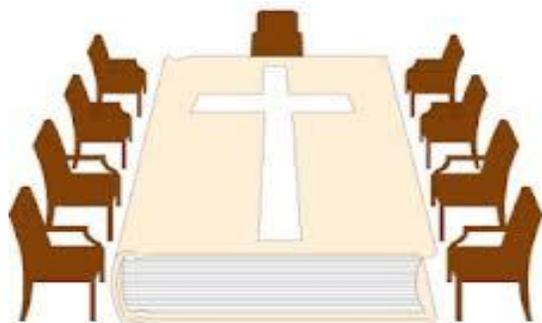
As with most non-profit agencies—funding is our biggest concern. It is a continual need. We have funding for most of the children from EEC (Early Education and Care) the state agency for childcare, and from United Way, which has been very generous, but their funding is shrinking! We rely on grants and the United Methodist Churches for help in many ways.

Many churches, mission groups, and UMW groups have participated in the "re-construction of Cooper." We have added programs and changed rooms around, replaced many windows, painted MOST of the classrooms, but still need to do some work in common spaces. Yard work remains a work in progress!

Fisk is committed to helping Cooper... as are other UMC's in the Boston area and beyond. Consider joining us!

February 2, 2013 at 9:00am





From the Education Committee Chairperson

Toddler Times

Here's the church
Here's the steeple
Open the doors and see all the people
Listen carefully
Hear what they say
Praying to God
He will show them the way.
Amen

Five Suggestions When Praying with Your Children

Now that I have included a very rote prayer, I encourage you to teach both by heart and spontaneous prayer.

1. Speak to God about everything.
2. Thank the Lord for one thing and ask for one thing.... Not always but a good way to form the habit of thanking and asking.
3. Take time to listen after praying.
4. Encourage spontaneous prayer Ex. / as you are walking and you see a pretty cloud formation ...thank God for the awesome world that he has given us.
5. Be a good role model ... you are your child's guide in so many ways ... if they see and hear you praying, they will jump aboard.

Prayer for the Older Child and All of Us Adults

God in heaven hear my prayer, keep me in thy loving care. Be my guide in all I do, Bless all those who love me too. Amen.



1. YOU could be a substitute Sunday School teacher and reap the benefits !!!!
2. YOU could take charge of Vacation Bible Camp and pick any dates and times to run it and reap the benefits !!!!!
3. YOU could attend Bible Study and learn a wealth of information !!!!
4. YOU could take a book from the church library and learn something new !!!!
5. YOU could challenge yourself to memorize the scriptures below and have God's word in your heart and mind at a moment's notice !!!!

All of the above opportunities are offered to you free of charge. Please watch for upcoming deals in future newsletters.

February Scripture for Memorization

Matthew 4:4 Jesus answered, "It is written : Man does not live by bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God."

1 Chronicles 16:11 Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually.

Phillipians 4:13 I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

2 Thessalonians 3:13 As for you, brothers, do not grow weary in doing good.

God is there for us! Carry His word in your hearts!



HAVE YOU HEARD

We are trying an experiment .

We have a coupon box in the church library.

You can take some or leave some ...hopefully

both. Coupons for money off groceries or restaurants etc.

DO NOT RECYCLE YOUR SUNDAY COUPONS !!!!!

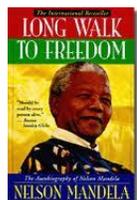
Bring them to church and leave them on the library table for filing.

Be a responsible consumer and help others at the same time.

Re-evaluation of this activity will be in June.

See Susan Carney with suggestions

or leave a note in the library.



Church Library

This book is in the church library.

Please feel free to borrow it and enjoy a good read!

Nelson Mandela's autobiography is moving and well written. Help yourself to any of the books that are there. The library is located right across the hall from the sanctuary.

Missions Commission

Missions Work Day

Cooper community Center Work Day

Saturday, February 2nd - 10:00am - 3:00pm

We have an opportunity to serve together
to support a wonderful resource
for local Community Families.

Meet at the church, and plan to leave at 9 am Saturday morning. Work from 10- 3 pm. Bring a bag lunch and any drinks or snacks you will need. Work opportunities include:

Installing shelves, painting and prep work, cleaning, organizing books, installing new ceiling tiles. Please sign up on church office and look for sign up in coffee hour Sunday.

Come to the PARTY

Saturday, March 2, 2013

4:00pm to 7:30pm

We (Fisk Church) are having a PARTY, and we hope you will come! We are looking forward to “just spending some time together.” This is a relaxed time to re-connect, have a cup of coffee or just visit and catch up with no obligations. You can enjoy popcorn, play a game of Trivia, cards, Uno, Catch Phrase or do a puzzle. How are you at Spelling? We plan to have a Spelling Bee. Enjoy the magician. You will be encouraged to “Write on the Wall.” We’ll have old and newer pictures to look at, music to listen to and lots of good food---snacks, beverages, supper, and an ice cream buffet.



All ages No cost

More information: Thom Townsend 508-655-3171

Check out our website www.fiskumc.org