

The Messenger

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

May 2013

Reflections from Pastor Mark

This Is Our Father's World

One of the more difficult poets of the English language is Gerard Manley Hopkins. His use of language is unusual and the lines of his verse are stressed in peculiar ways. Maybe that is why he considered is a great poet. Beyond his technical ability, however, is the matter of faith: Hopkins was a Jesuit Priest, a devout Christian. Here follows, arguably, his most famous poem:

God's Grandeur

THE WORLD is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men then now not reckon his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod; 5
And all is seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.
And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things; 10
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs—
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

You may love poetry; you may have no use for it. I bring this poem to your attention because it says something

of profound importance: The universe – including our world – is full of God's glory and nothing humankind can do will efface God's presence. As followers of Jesus Christ, we affirm that no act of terror, no injustice, no failure of moral courage – not even a cross outside old Jerusalem's walls – can drive God from the creation He so deeply loves.

Christians – that's you! me! – must look upon God's world with the eyes of Christ, looking for goodness in everyone, seeking God's beauty in all of creation.

This is our Father's world. Let's not forget,

-Pastor Mark-



Staff of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church	
Pastor:	Rev. Mark Goad
Admin. / Newsletter Editor:	Judy Bortolotti
Deacon:	Rev. Cheryl Gates
Youth Ministers:	Joshua & Deanna Leedy-Andreozzi
Choir Director /Organist:	Eric Mazonson
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Josh & Deanna's Email: D&JLA@gmail.com	
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Church Website: fiskumc.org	

Pastor Mark will be on vacation April 29 – May 10

**Worship Service Participants and Nursery
Volunteers for**



Greeters:

May 5 Ken and Kathy Reynolds
 May 12 David and Janis Cail
 May 19 Jim and Dorothy Phillips
 May 26 Leo and Julia Jaco

Acolytes

May 5 – Kelli G.
 May 12- Rose C.
 May 19- Sarah F.
 May 26 – Kelli G.

Cross bearers

Thom T.
 Matt S.
 Will S.
 Ashley S.

Liturgists

May 5 - Rev. Cheryl Gates
 May 12 – Dorothy Phillips
 May 19 - Joey Coraccio
 May 26 - Julia Acquaaah-Harrison



Communion Servers

May 5 – James and Dorothy Phillips

Coffee Hour Hosts

May 5 Luncheon
 May 12 Gary & Marcia Hoyt
 May 19 Pat Price
 May 26 Susan Carney



**Nursery
Workers**



Nursery Volunteer 10:30am

May 5 Crystal Mayo
 May 12 Sarah Gates
 May 19 Jennifer French
 May 26 Heather Oluwole

**Yard Sale and...
A BAKE SALE**

May 11 -- 8:30-12:00noon

**All of your good used & un-used items
from the closets, garage, sheds, cellar, toy
bin...wherever you need to clean out!**



- ➡ **No clothes or computer parts**
- ➡ **Any large furniture items...if not sold we may ask you to pick them up at the end of the day.**
- ➡ **You may begin bringing your items to the Youth Room on Monday May 13.**



**We are adding the request for
Baked Goods! Mother's Day is
the next day... buy MOM some
cupcakes, cookies, a cake
or pie.**



Coffee and donuts for sale!

***The profits from this support our Mission Budget—Natick
Service Council, Family Promise and Natick Food Pantry.
Fisk's United Methodist Women thank you for your support!***

Questions-Call Barbara Beekman or Janis Cail

Special Charge Conference- Wednesday, May 22nd

In accordance with the *Discipline* of the United Methodist Church, we are announcing that a Charge Conference, by permission of the District Superintendent, will convene at the May 22nd Administrative Board meeting. The single issue of the conference is a proposal brought forward by the Fisk Trustees. By rules of the *Discipline*, no other items may be added to the agenda.

The proposal is as follows:

1. Terminating the Building Endowment Fund. Value as of 3/31/13 \$5,876.36.
2. Terminating the Music Endowment Fund. Value as of 3/31/13 \$1,129.76.
3. Establishing a Facilities Maintenance Fund with the proceeds from closing the above two funds.

Rationale:

Since the Finance Committee and Administrative Board have [not funded] Trustee line items, 5201 & 5202 for Church Improvements & Improvements and line item 5220 for Parsonage Maintenance in the Church budget for 2012 & 2013, the Trustees must look within their funds to find funding for these crucial areas.

Said Facilities Maintenance Fund to be used by the Trustees in 2013, if needed; unused funds would be held by the Trustees in this fund for necessary repairs, ongoing or emergency, to the church and parsonage in future years, under the direction of the Board of Trustees.

As the meeting is being convened as a *Charge* Conference, members of the Administrative Board will participate in the voting.



Food Donation Program – Starbucks!

Is this a ministry you might be called to serve in? Pick-up and return of containers to Starbucks are Sunday's and Wednesday's. Please let Debi Henry know if you would like more details or would like to sign-up in May or June. Through this ministry, we have helped out Pathways Family Shelter and Turning point Shelter, , Family Promise Metrowest, The Miracle Kitchen at the Salvation Army, Cedar Gardens and Natick Open Door.



.....And what A PARTY it was !

Featuring fun, food, games, and entertainment, our "*Come to the Party*" celebration in early March offered us all some time to celebrate our great church and to socialize with old and new friends. With venues such as the kids playroom, our own coffee house (with performers), hallway challenges, the game room, a photographer and a professional magician, our 150+ guests unanimously agreed that it was a great evening of fun. We were delighted to visit with current and former "Fisk folk", some who travelled from Cape Cod, Maine and the South Shore to be with us.

When asked to pick out the high-point of the evening, there was no consensus. For some it was just hanging out in the coffee house; for others it was the magician; the appetizers and meal; the video of old times at Fisk; the ice cream bar; or the spelling bee, when we uncovered some real competitive spirit.

Perhaps the only real consensus was the response: Let's do this again, next year!

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church REACHING OUT - Ministry of Caring

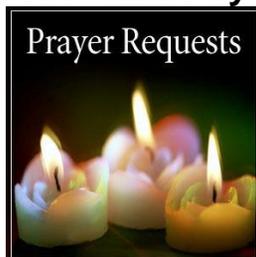


God has asked us to be His hands and feet and to share His love. We are looking for church members to put God's love into action! Sign up to call 1-5 other church members each month. Check in with them and see if they need something: a meal, a prayer, a car ride, help cleaning, a babysitter, a listening ear.

Callers can choose to directly help their church neighbor or they can relay these needs to:

Pastor Mark - (508) 653-1674, fiskpastormark@aol.com
Debi Henry - (508) 651-0256, debraleighhenry@yahoo.com
Sarah Gates - (802) 522-3163, sarahgates4@gmail.com

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church Prayer Chain - Ministry of Caring



There are times in all our lives when we need to be lifted up in prayer by the community of faith. Fisk Memorial UMC has a long history of being a praying people. We consider it both a privileged and responsibility to pray to God to help heal the hurts of individuals, families, towns, nations and the wider world. Our Prayer Chain, are members of this church that regularly pray for you or someone you love! To become a member of a prayer chain, please complete a participant form. To request a Prayer Chain, this can be done by contacting Pastor Mark, Debi Henry, or Sarah Gates or by completing a prayer request card in the offering plate during Sunday worship service. In light of each person's need for both privacy and support, we ask that when you are requesting prayer, you will consider the following:

- God knows what each of His children need. When making a Prayer Chain request, share only the details that you feel comfortable sharing.
- If the Prayer Chain request is for someone other than yourself, it is important that you ask permission to share his or her name and details of the need. Please make certain you have received this permission before making the request.
- The Prayer Chain is open to members, visitors, and anyone who needs prayer. Those being prayed for do not have to attend this church or any church. God's grace is available to all!
- Prayer Chain requests will only go to the members of Fisk Memorial UMC who want to participate as a prayer. These members have enrolled with the Ministry of Caring and agreed to do this job with tenderness, sincerity, and humility.

From Missions



Special Mission Sunday: Please join us for a special visit from Dr. Belinda Forbes, United Methodist Missionary in Nicaragua, on Sunday, May 5th. Dr. Forbes will give the sermon and stay with us after service for lunch to give us the opportunity to hear more about her experience in Nicaragua. Please see the sign-up sheet in the office to bring something for the lunch, we are looking for finger sandwiches and salads. Thank you!



Habitat for Humanity: This mission project is on hold. The Wayland town Zoning Board has had additional questions and has not approved the project. The hope is that it moves ahead and ground breaking can begin in June. We are looking to schedule a work day in late September or early October.

We will continue with the Baby Clothes Drive during the month of May.

HELP NEWBORNS IN NEED

Your donations of baby clothes will help infants at local hospitals, shelters and clinics.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Donate baby clothing (new or used) in sizes 0-12 months. Blankets and board books are also welcome.

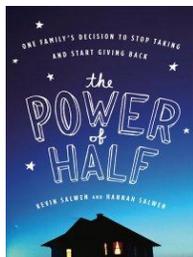
Look for a plastic container at the back of the church! Thank you for your help.



Save The Date: Sunday June 2nd – 2nd Annual Missions Cookout Fundraiser for our Youth Group Join us for Hamburgers, hotdogs, salad, baked goods and kids games!! \$10 per person, \$20 for families. All funds go to support Youth service projects and/or summer camps. More to come!!

Another successful Clothing Drive for **Dress for Success!** Thanks for your contributions- it will make a difference in someone's life.

United Methodist Women



Book Group - The current book being read for the Reading Program is Power of Half by Salwen. Anyone interested in broadening their views on a variety of subjects is encouraged to read the books on the shelves in Ogle Parlor. Discussion date TBD. (Barbara Beekman)

Yard Sale and Bake Sale – May 11 from 8:30-noon. We need baked goods and your “stuff” to recycle! Clean out your space and bring us your items. Proceeds go to Missions. (Janis Cail)

Pound Party - May 7 at 7:30pm Fun evening with an auction of a “pound” of anything...wrap a pound of something to be auctioned off—proceeds will complete Health Kits for UMCOR. We will also be entertained by a musical group and enjoy refreshments. Join us for this fun time. (Debbie Friscino)

Goin' on a Cruise – We have planned a River Cruise on the Concord River which includes lunch. The trip will pass the homes and places known for the authors who resided and worked in the area. Tickets are \$25.00 (including lunch) Date is June 8th. (Janis Cail)



Prayer Shawl Group –We meet on Wednesday mornings at 10am to knit, crochet, pray and enjoy the fellowship of each other. Join us or just stop in and visit. Joanne Billo or Winnie Sinclair)

Mission U: This is the new name of the School of Christian Mission. Are you interested in learning more about Poverty, Living Sacramentally and Walking Justly or the Roma of Europe. July 26-28 in Manchester NH (Susan Carney)

Vacation Bible School



Look! Up in the Sky!
It's a bird...it's a plane... No its VBS!!!
We're getting ready for another exciting
VBS adventure this summer!

July 8 - 12, 2013

Everything Is Possible With God!

The sky's the limit this summer at Sky VBS!

*Teen and Adult Volunteers,
Many Gifts and Talents Needed!
Group leaders and assistants * Sewing *
Arts & Crafts * VBS Band * Music *
Decorations * Set-Up * Clean-Up *
Bible Story Tellers * Music * Publicity *
Registration * Name Tags * Games *
Photographer * Mission Project Coordinator *
Supplies Coordinator * Athletic Director **

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church
Fill out an Adult/Teen Volunteer
Registration form during May!

Contact Debi Henry for more information.



Finance Update – May 2013

The faithful support of you the congregation has been a blessing in the first three months of the year, through March, and we must continue to do more. Our financial update:

- Your financial support is within 3% of our Budget through March – thank you.
- We are spending less than our budgeted expenses,
- We pray for continued improvements in our financial position.

The ministries of Fisk touch so many people in so many ways. We as a congregation provide important ministries to individuals and families at Fisk, to our community, to New England, and to the world in need. All of our missions and ministries require support: our time, our talents, our gifts, and our financial resources.

Many great things are happening! Those ministries, and new ideas, depend directly upon the financial support of each and every one of us. 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.

June Messenger deadline: May 23

What Is Relay For Life?



Each year, more than 4 million people in over 20 countries take part in this global phenomenon and raise much-needed funds and awareness to save lives from cancer.

Celebrate--During a Relay event, *participants and cancer survivors* celebrate what they've overcome during the Survivors Lap.

Remember--During the *Luminaria Ceremony*, we remember people lost to cancer, and honor people who have fought or are fighting cancer. This alone is a very moving time.

Fight Back--The Fight Back Ceremony inspires Relay participants to take tangible action against a disease that has taken too much.

What Is A Relay Event?

- Organized, overnight community fundraising walk
- Teams of people camp out around a track
- Members of each team take turns walking around the track
- Food, games and activities provide entertainment and build camaraderie
- Family-friendly environment for the entire community

Because it's a team event, individual participants are not required to be there the entire time. But it's so much fun, you'll find it hard to leave!

Our Team is the Fisk Church Walkers sign up and join us at the NHS track on May 18 any time after 12 noon.

See *Marcia Hoyt, Sherry Culver or Susan Carney* for more details.

Comedian Clayburn Cox

Winner of the 2011 Clean Comedy Challenge

Friday, May 31, 7:00 p.m., Fisk Memorial UMC



Join us for a night of hilarious – and clean – comedy!

Along with dessert for all, and separate entertainment for the children, the whole family can enjoy an evening out of the house.

This is a perfect opportunity to invite friends, neighbors or someone in need of a laugh.

Tickets are \$5 per person, or \$10 per family.

Call or visit the church office to reserve your seats.

A *limited* number of tickets will be available at the door, so book your spot soon! Half of all ticket proceeds will benefit the Natick Service Counsel.

Attention upcoming Graduates!



Graduates of all ages, please let the church office know about your upcoming graduation, so we can recognize and celebrate your accomplishment with you! Church office (508) 653-1674 or Fiskumc@aol.com



Fisk Memorial UMC Booth At Natick Farmer's Market

Saturday, May 4, 2013
9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

The Church will be having a table at the first Outdoor Farmer's Market of the year on Natick Commons. The Evangelism Commission is seeking volunteers to commit to a one-hour block of time, between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m., to staff the table and assist children with a bead craft we'll be doing with them.

Let the Spirit guide you to a day in the fresh air greeting your neighbors! If you are able to help, please contact Evangelism Co-Chair Barbara Beekman at (508) 647-4004 or bjbeekman@yahoo.com.



EASTER EGG HUNT FOLLOW-UP

When a group of Fisk members started planning to host a community wide Easter egg hunt as part of the church growth initiative, we had no idea what kind of attendance to expect. God knew and thankfully He directed us in our planning such that not a single one of the more than 177 children went home without eggs or crafts! Who would have thought that we would have been so blessed to have 177 registered children and their parents and grandparents visit our church (we know quite a few hopped by without registering with a very busy Debi Henry whose patience was unending so 177 could easily be well over 200).

When the children first arrived, they had the opportunity to color an Easter scene or work an Easter cross word puzzle or connect the dots until it was their turn to go out to hunt. The children were grouped by age for their safety and age appropriate hiding places were found for the eggs. They were led out to hunt by one of several grownups, including our own Pastor Mark, Tom Carney, Bob and Maureen Weigold, Brian Murphy and Thom Townsend. Susan Carney and Jan Townsend managed the room for the 1 and 2 year olds calling on her experience as a teacher to create a fun, interactive experience for them with tents and tunnels in rooms 8 & 9. The children of all ages were given small bags and instructed to find 5 eggs. And, when it looked like we might run out of eggs when a few children forgot and took more, with a little encouragement, they gladly shared back such that we actually had eggs left over for next year!!! After finding their eggs, they returned to Whipple Hall to have cookies and to choose a craft such as a paper plate chicken, egg necklace or a bunny pencil. If they did not want to make a craft, they could also watch an Easter movie. Every child left with a "goodie bag" containing a sticker scene of the open tomb, Easter coloring book and information about Vacation Bible School.

We had a full court press on promoting the event which, combined with the great word-of-mouth marketing done by our members, contributed to the excellent attendance. Fliers were put at Starbucks in Sherwood Plaza, several day care centers including Face, Natick Hall, the Morse Library. Many of the ladies of the church helped address postcards for a neighborhood mailing of professionally created postcards as well. Sherry Culver broadly publicized the event online on multiple community bulletin boards and on our own beautiful Fisk website.

There are so many people in the church that need to be thanked but are too numerous to list them all, but each of you deserve a big Christian hug for making this such a successful initiative and what we hope will be the start of a new tradition here at Fisk. Marcia Hoyt and Deborah Hernandez drove the planning and execution but without so many of you who hid eggs, registered families, baked cookies, filled goodie bags, etc.

A special shout out to the children who helped stuff eggs including Becca and Sarah French, Kate and Caroline O'Brien, and Shannon and Carter Murphy.

And, it doesn't stop there. We now have names and addresses to use for future mailings and will be looking forward to more events to create wonderful experiences for our community children and to give us an opportunity to share the warmth of Fisk and Christian love with all who participate. We hope that each of you will put on your creative hats and be thinking about how we can better serve the children of our community, most of whom have no church home. – *Deborah Hernandez-*

Ingathering Opportunities at Annual Conference

Once again, Fisk is collecting items for critical missions and programs supported by our connection:

UMCOR – Health kits (1 comb, 1 washcloth, 1 hand towel, 1 bar of soap, 1 toothbrush, 6 band-aids, 1 nail clipper in a gallon plastic bag.) Completed kits or individual items are needed.

Fabric and sewing supplies for **Nicaragua**



Cell phones for **Safe Havens** – the phones are reprogrammed for emergency use by victims of domestic violence



Eyeglasses for the **Haitian Methodist Church**



And ... an Ingathering of Quilts, Blankets, and Prayer Shawls: Like to knit, sew, crochet, or tie-fleece? We will have an ingathering of small blankets, lap quilts, and prayer shawls at our Saturday worship at Annual Conference in June at Gordon College. After blessing these gifts, they will be sent out both locally and globally to those in need. Want to share ideas, patterns, stories? Check out www.methodistsinmission.blogspot.com.



Consider contributing to these important ingathering opportunities at conference this year. Drop health kits items in Ogle Parlor and other items in the church office for delivery to conference. *Thanks!*

Questions – Ask Sherry Culver, Lay Member

Mission Shares - What's the scoop?

A few months ago, we announced that Fisk had once again paid 100% of its apportioned Mission Shares. Sometimes we think that these funds, channeled through the New England Annual Conference, do not come back to us but here are **just a few ways** that those dollars help our local church.

Mission Share Giving: What's in it for our church

- ~ Trains lay speakers, provides youth ministry opportunities
- ~ Develops curriculum for Sunday Schools, provides scholarships, trains and develops missionaries, Supports youth camps and a retreat center
- ~ Provides counsel for treasurers and trustees, administers pension and health benefits and local church insurance programs

Mission Share Giving: What's in it for others

- ~Under girds UMCOR so that disaster relief can be delivered, funds Health Clinics, sends out 2000+ missionaries around the world
- ~ Sends Volunteers in Mission throughout the US and abroad, advocates for a living wage, helps women experiencing crises, opposes use of landmines, advocates for our environment
- Works to eradicate racism, feeds hungry children and families in our Conference and beyond, Supports Salem Economic in Western Maine

Reading through this list, I'm sure that you identified with at least one item. We are a part of a bigger connection that is worldwide with critical ministries in local churches, in our community, in our country and in our world.

This year, I'll be attending Annual Conference as your Lay Member. Questions? I'll try to answer them. And I encourage you to look for way to support the ingathering this year – they are so important to our connection.

Sherry Culver, Lay Member

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church Plan for a Healthy Church

Goal: To position Fisk Church to be a vital, sustainable, spirit-led, welcoming and healthy church that serves its members, the community, and global missions.

I continue to be excited about being the Lay Leader for Fisk Church. I have been working with the leadership of Fisk on a plan for a welcoming and healthy church as stated in the goal above. We are now seeking input from you, the members.

The plan was presented to the congregation during worship on Sunday, April 14, 2013. We will continue to give updates. Details of the plan to date for a healthy church are outlined in this article.

Programs and activities that is characteristic of a healthy church

- Focus within the church
 - Spiritual fulfillment
 - Bible studies
 - Prayer groups and other small groups
 - Inviting and inspiring worship
 - Family focused activities
- Focus outside or external to the church
 - Community outreach
 - Ecumenical events and activities
 - Missions

Our goal is to strengthen and expand existing programs and to add new programs and activities with identified means to measure their effectiveness or success. We move forward with faith as a core value, striving to achieve what Jesus asked of his disciples. *Matthew 28:19 Go and make followers of all people in the world. 28:20: Teach them to obey everything that I have taught you, and I will be with you always until the end of this age.* As Jesus disciples Fisk Church embarks on this strategic plan to become a healthy church, offering a dynamic, faith-based experience that attracts both unchurched and new Christians. How exciting!!!

Draft 1: Strategic Plans for a Healthy Church

We, the members of Fisk Church, will work as Jesus disciples toward the four goals listed below over a three- year period (2013- 2015). They cover community awareness, membership, financial support and planned giving. We will target four population segments in four phases as listed below.

Each commission and organization will plan programs separately or together to help Fisk Church achieve its goal to be a healthy church. Examples are the programs completed year-to-date for Phase 1: Community Easter Egg Hunt (177 children+) and paid nursery care on

Sunday mornings. Council on Ministries will be working on a new style of worship service for the summer. Exciting, yes?

We need the involvement of all disciples at Fisk to become a healthy church. We need you to pray for your church and its leaders, to provide input and to participate. Please give your input or share how you would like to get involved with Pastor Mark Goad, Lay Leader Dorothy Phillips, Chairs of Administrative Board and Council on Ministries (COM), Thom Townsend and Marcia Hoyt, respectively.

In addition, we thank Deborah Hernandez, Barbara Beekman, Zachary Gates and Mike Bruns who are also sharing their expertise and skills in developing the plan and its presentation.

