

The Messenger

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

November 2013

Reflections from Pastor Rick

It has been a whole month, and I want to thank you all for being so kind and helpful. As I have watched and listened in the past weeks, I have come to some conclusions. First, Fisk is a great church with a great tradition and history. *That* is something that we can build upon for today and tomorrow. Second, there are dedicated people here who work very hard for the church and for the love of the Lord. We could use some more folks to help, but that will come. Third, there is a spiritual hunger that we need to feed. Folks have been so concerned with holding things together in the past few months that some of our souls are running close to empty. All in all, I can see possibilities in the future for Fisk that are beyond even our imaginings.

What do we need to do moving forward? If we are to be the church alive and the church that creates disciples for Christ, we need to tend our spiritual fires. In the coming months, I intend to work toward this goal. I will begin a weekly Bible Study using the lectionary readings (listed elsewhere in this Messenger). We will meet at 10:30 on Tuesday mornings and have the chance to explore what the scriptures say to us individually, what they mean for Fisk United Methodist Church, and what they are saying for the world. We'll begin on Tuesday, November 19. I would also like the chairperson of each committee to begin their meetings by reading aloud the Gospel lesson for that week and then inviting the folks on the committee to explore those same questions in a 15 minute opening. That way, we shall all be listening to and sharing the same insights and be preparing for a deeper worship experience on Sunday morning.

We need to enliven and re-energize our Sunday worship. I have spoken with our choir director and we need more folks who see music and their participation as a ministry they can offer the church. I believe that worship ought to be exciting and that we should expect the unexpected. We need to leave room for the Holy Spirit to move and for Jesus to show up. I hope that you will be willing to let us do things a bit differently on occasion and sometimes to just let worship happen rather than trying to script every element of the service.

I also plan to challenge the church to conduct a six week small group ministry using a workbook I have written. We shall do this in January and the challenge is to get 75 people from the church engaged in this. The topic is "Responding to Grace".

All of this may seem to be more work, but on the contrary, all of this is an opportunity to slow our lives, take a deep breath, and let our souls be fed. Once we have been fed, we can invite others to come and join us and we will grow in spirit, in numbers, and in witness to the world.

Blessings,

Pastor Rick Black

Staff of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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

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Church Website: www.fiskumc.org

Worship Service Participants and Nursery Volunteers for November



Greeters:

November 3- Missions Committee
 November 10- Youth Group
 November 17- SPRC
 November 24- Mission Committee

Acolytes

November 3- Kelli Garrant
 November 10- Sarah French
 November 17- Rose Currie
 November 24- Kelli Garrant



Liturgists:

November 3- Rev. Cheryl Gates
 November 10- Susan Carney
 November 19- Mark Owen
 November 24- Thom Townsend



Communion Servers

November 3 – Jim and Dorothy Phillips



Fellowship Time/Coffee Hour Hosts

3- Geoff & Sherry Del Sesto
 10- Missions Commission
 17- SPRC
 24- Tom & Susan Carney

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ALL SAINTS SUNDAY is November 3. On this Sunday, we remember the many beloved church members, family members and friends who have gone onto their eternity in the past year. This is a day of sacred celebration as we worship together, share memories and moments of those we loved, and light candles of reflection in honor of those that touched our lives.

\$\$ Finance Update – November 2013



The faithful support of you the congregation continues to be a blessing. However, we continue to find ourselves behind our Plan after nine months. As a result we are spending wisely, and carefully managing our resources:

- Your financial support is 11% below Budget, through September,
- We are spending less than our budgeted expenses to compensate, but expenses continue, and we may not be able to fully fund our valued ministries at our current rates,
- We continue to pray for improvements in our financial position.

We would urge you to review your nine month Statement of Giving which you just received, and make every effort to catch up on your commitment to Fisk's ministries. If you are current, we thank you, and ask that you consider increasing your support this year, as some of our cherished families have moved out of our area. If you have not given in the past, we would urge you to consider supporting our ministries. We began the year, and our Stewardship Plan, with the forced requirement to spend less, and achieve less. Our Plan still requires us to "borrow" from our resources in order to fund all of our planned ministries in 2013. We need your prayerful assistance.

The ministries of Fisk touch so many people in so many ways. As we enter the holiday period, we must prayerfully and purposefully work to grow our church spiritually...and our finances will follow.

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

Michael Bruns (Chair), Reverend Rick Black, 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.

Lectionary readings for November: - From Pastor Rick

November 3:

Hebrew Bible: Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4
Epistle: 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12
Gospel: Luke 19:1-10

November 10:

Hebrew Bible: Haggai 1:15b-2:9
Epistle: 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17
Gospel: Luke 20:27-38

November 17:

Hebrew Bible: Isaiah 65:17-25
Epistle: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13
Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

November 24:

Hebrew Bible: Jeremiah 23:1-6
Epistle: Colossians 1:11-20
Gospel: Luke 23:33-43

Pray, Pray, Pray

by Lay Leader Dorothy Phillips

Wow! We are moving forward on "a wing and a prayer". Our new minister, Pastor Rick Black, has become a vital part of Fisk in just one month. We are blessed with his faith and organizational skills during ministry meetings and with his sermons on Sunday mornings.

What should we do for Fisk and to support Pastor Rick? PRAY, PRAY and MORE PRAYERS. Let us pray together for Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church to be the place of worship where everyone wants to be. Pray about what your role should be to support the strategic health plan for Fisk. Pray for Pastor Rick, that God continues to bless him as he blesses us. Pray for the financial health of the church as we begin the focus on stewardship. Last but not least, let us pray for one another especially those listed in the Sunday bulletins.

We are considering a time during the week for us to gather for prayer.

Matthew 21:22 "If you believe, you will get anything you ask for in prayer."

Philippians 4:6 "Do not worry about anything, but pray and ask God for everything you need, always giving thanks."

Stewardship

The time is upon us as followers of Jesus Christ, to reflect on our blessings. The love of our Savior manifests itself in our families, our community, our health and well-being.

As Christians, we are called upon to be good stewards of those blessings, and we are called upon to give back generously to our Lord.

"Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing" – Proverbs 3:9-10

You will be receiving an important letter in November from the Finance Committee. Please prayerfully consider your stewardship covenant with our Lord.

Did you know FiskUMC is on Facebook?

Like us on Facebook to get up-to-date information





Clothing and Vintage Items at the Fall Fair November 16

We will have a new area this year! It will be a place to sell “ Good as New “ clothing items. We need your donations!! Women and children items only We will only have tables to display things on and so sweaters , shirts , pants etc.
Only bring items that are free from stains , and have no tears or missing buttons etc.

There will also be a table with older items. We had this table last year and it did well. Here you will find older items like milk bottles , dishes , fancy hats that were used decades ago. If the items do not sell from this table we will return them to the owner. I have a hat that I bought there last year decorating my living room !

SO- look around and see what you might have to help us help missions in Natick and around the world. We'd love all those unwanted items - too good to discard but perfect to help those in need.

Thanks in advance!!!! Susan Carney



Children in Church

Since a few of you have talked to me about how to get the most out of church for your children, I have decided to write a few suggestions. You all know your children are unique and so no one idea will fit all of our kids..... bend and stretch these ideas to fit or come up with your own.

1. Have expectations (increase them as they are reached)
2. Be realistic by age and attention span.
3. Ask for God's help and patience.

So what about those clipboards ... who should be using them.. and when? This is totally an individual call. Let me tell you what I did with Kate.

Tom and I had a certain point in the service where the activities could come out . She liked to read and so it was books. We expected her to sit and listen until a certain point and we would whisper comments about the service to her if we saw her drifting.

Last week , Pastor Rick was giving the sermon and as I was liturgist , I looked up and saw several of my class watching him and listening ... Praise God ! They had the clipboards in their laps ... but something he said caught their attention.

Susanna Wesley (mother of John and Charles) was a devout follower of Christ ... and that was her calling to give that gift to her children. We know that she surely succeeded with at least 2 of her 19.

God bless your efforts for your children. It isn't always easy. Church family please remember to acknowledge the youngest among us. Together we are the Fisk Family.

Susan Carney....Education Chair



Methodist Trivia Or Things We Never Really Needed to Know

- There are 123 Methodist affiliated colleges in the United States. (Wow!)
- *John Wesley (one of our founders) was one of 19 children ...*
- Susanna Wesley ...his mother was a well educated woman which was rare for those days ... late 1600's. Actually studying university materials.(I am impressed)
- *John's brother Charles wrote hundreds of hymns ...check out our hymnal ...*
- The mascot for the Ohio Wesleyan University is The Fighting Bishops (hehe)
(Tidbits of knowledge brought to you by the Education Committee)



Help Decorate our Church!

All are invited to come help decorate the Sanctuary/Church for Christmas on Saturday, November 30th at 10:00a.m. More hands make the work go faster!



Coats for Kids Drive – NOW thru Jan. 11th

Please bring in your unwanted coats, any size, in good condition and we will deliver the coats to Anton's Cleaners. Anton's cleans these coats and distributes them to needy organizations throughout the Boston area and Massachusetts. Their goals is to serve 66,000 people this winter. Coats can be from infant size through adults. Please no big stains, rips, tears or broken zippers. Think about a coat you would give to a friend. Thank you for your support! ***You may bring the coats to the bin outside the church office.**



United Methodist Women

Fall is here. The weather is beautiful with a little nip in the air. We continue to Praise God and work to grow His Kingdom, as we fulfill our purpose. As United Methodist Women, we continue to make plans to support the women, children and youth with our mission emphases.

Tuesday, November 5— This is such important topic...Domestic Abuse and Elder Abuse. We have a guest coming to speak to us about this topic and how to respond "as a faith community" to those being affected.

Safe Havens is an agency started by a UM clergy Rev. Anne Marie Hunter and now is spreading it wings to educate as many as possible. Plan to join us on November 5 at 7:30pm.



December 3—Christmas Stories! Come and hear and experience Christmas in a different way!



Thanks to all who supported the Yard Sale and helped raise over \$600.00 for missions. It is with the help of the United Methodist Men and all who donated...that this is possible.

March 8-This is a busy time of year, but looking ahead mark March 8 on your calendar. We are hosting a ONE DAY MISSION U. This is such a wonderful day of learning, fellowship, lunch etc. It is open to all men, women and youth. What do you know about **The Roma of Europe?** These people were actually in the news again this week. Also you will have the opportunity to hear from Rev. Wanda Santos-Perez...**The Call: Living Sacramentally and Walking Justly.** . Come and learn.

Holiday Fair

November 16

Only 2 weeks away! It is FAIR Day.

Just what does that mean? It tells us that the church building is turned into a festival of food, crafts, good-as-new items, used jewelry, cookies, lobster rolls, gift items, books, homemade soups, ornaments, Silent Auction items...including Gift Cards for restaurants and services in town, Gift Baskets, pies, cheese, apples, aprons, gift items, pickles and popcorn...and so much more. We have 5-6 vendors coming to sell their crafts. Do you know of someone else who might want to join our Fair...a crafter, a jeweler, a seller of soaps, candles etc. Just call Sherry Culver or Janis Cail.



We have added a Vintage Room—some good used clothing (women's and children's), old collectibles, and antiques. We also plan to have a "pick pocket lady" ...for the children.

Oh yes, come to help! Come to shop!
Come and bring a friend.

Come for lunch! Come to visit! Come enjoy!
Come and bring your donated baked goods and food items.
Come to help set-up Friday evening!
Just COME!

United Methodist Youth Fellowship

This month's Youth work has been GREAT! Three important events have occurred and they will begin to springboard our ministry. Three of our youth have begun confirmation. We are participating in confirmation with three other churches. So far, they have learned and discussed the creation story through the First Testament. They are learning about our Jewish heritage and how it relates to our world today. Their interests have been peeked through continued discussion and debate.

We've also complete our first of at least three Open Gym Night events. We had five youth participate. We played games such as 4-square which is always a favorite. We played cards and ate pizza. Great Fellowship occurred and we look forward to the expected growth in numbers for next month.

Lastly, we participated in a service project at Cedar Gardens. We had five youth participate again, and they completed light-cleaning of common areas in five separate buildings. Many of the common areas needed a thorough cleaning and we were happy to help. We washed windows, swept floors, wiped hand rails and dusted rugs. Many of the entrances had accumulated dust, cob-webs, and spiders (Ahh!). But we stuck in and completed the services that God had presented to us. Furthermore we were able to help people that needed a little break. Many residents were so excited to have clean windows, floors, and expressed incredible thanks.

As always we continue to serve and grow in our faithfulness to Christ Jesus.

Matthew 25:35-40 - English Standard Version (ESV)

³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? ³⁸ And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? ³⁹ And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' ⁴⁰ And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers,^[a] you did it to me.'



COME TO THE CONCERT!

On Friday, November 8th at 7:30pm, Fisk will be presenting our own Eric Mazonson's good friend and colleague, violinist Alexey Shabalin, in concert with Eric, performing a program of classics by Bach, Mozart and Brahms. Those of you who were present at Christmas Eve two years ago will remember Mr. Shabalin's wonderful playing.

Donations will be gratefully accepted, with all proceeds going to the church's general fund. A reception will follow the recital.

Alexey Shabalin has been Music Director and Symphony Conductor of the Rhode Island Philharmonic Youth Orchestras since 2003. Having expanded and improved under his leadership, the ensemble performed in Carnegie Hall in May, 2005. He also founded and conducts the Rhode Island Philharmonic Youth Soloists, an advanced chamber orchestra. Mr. Shabalin directs orchestral activities at Providence College and Rhode Island College, coaches chamber music at Brown University and The Rhode Island Philharmonic Music School and teaches violin privately and at The Music School.

Active as a solo recitalist and chamber player, his busy concert schedule has taken him around the world. Mr. Shabalin graduated from Moscow Conservatory in 1995, having studied with Professors Igor Besrodny and Alexander Melkinov. As a student he won third prize in the Soviet national string quartet competition in 1991. Also in 1991, he was a semi-finalist in the International Shostakovich Chamber Music Competition.

From 1992 to 1996, Shabalin toured with the world-renowned Moscow Soloists Chamber Orchestra, conducted by famed violist Yuri Bashmet.

The Boston Globe called him "a very gifted and unusually personal violinist," and praised his playing for projecting a certain aristocratic air that is solidly *supported by technique and musicality.*"

Currently he is a member of the first violin section of the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra

Council of Ministries

This is a group of chairs of the "Program Committees of Fisk" (Education, Evangelism, Missions, Worship, Youth Ministries, UMW and UMM) plus, the Communications Coordinator and the Lay Leader. We meet monthly and ANYONE is welcome to join us. Our goal is to thoughtfully and prayerfully make plans for the programs for the church and community that fulfill our Strategic Plan. We generally meet on the fourth Tuesday of the month...except in November and December...we will not meet in November and but will be meeting on December 10th.



For the last 4 years we have re-invented a NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM at Fisk and invited the community into the church to experience Christmas in a new way.

WELL, we again are re-inventing that event into something a bit different.



"Christmas in our Community" December 14

We need your input and ideas. We are forming a Task Force to work on this short-term event. Our initial plans are to involve our neighboring churches...have live animals...do a craft...sing ...have food AND tell THE STORY.

Are you interested in being part of this Task Force?

Speak to Marcia or Susan. Current members: Susan Carney, Marcia Hoyt, Thom Townsend and Barbara Beekman.

Marcia Hoyt-Chair of Council of Ministries