

The Messenger

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

April 2012

Reflections from Pastor Mark

*To be saved does not just mean to be a little encouraged,
a little comforted, a little relieved.
It means to be pulled like a log from a burning fire.*

*Resurrection. . . a call from heaven to us:
"Rise Up! You are dead, but I will give you life."*

—Karl Barth, theologian, 20th cent.

This is a difficult Pastor's Page to write, not because Easter is a problem – heavens, no! – but because today, as I write, we disciples are still on our Lenten wilderness journey. It feels like a cheat to skip over Holy Week and start chattering about Easter! (Ever skip to the end of a mystery novel to see how it ends? Yeah, it's like that.) I am convinced Christians can't get *there* without being *here*.



And yet, quite frankly, we often try. This was unintentionally well-stated by a church member who just did not care for the solemnity of Lent: "*Why can't we skip all this grim Lent stuff and just get to Easter?*" she asked. This seemed to her the most reasonable thing in the world.

The simplest answer to her question – which is actually a very good one – is that Easter makes no sense without that which comes before it.

Notice "Easter" commercials on TV and you'll get my meaning: Chocolate bunnies, new spring clothes, holiday hams and the like have not a thing to do with Easter. (I like all of those things, by the way, but they have nothing to do with the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.)

The true joy of Easter is that Christ's Resurrection is God's answer to the world's pain and suffering, sin, guilt and death.

Until we acknowledge those realities in our lives – and take a good, honest look at our own failings, disappointments, guilt and sadness – Easter will not be anything more than a lovely spring day, a new suit, and a tasty ham on the dinner table. And again, all those things are fine – but they will not give you forgiveness, peace of mind or abundant life which ends – never. This kind of joy requires something more powerful than anything, everything that the world can offer. And so we proclaim, with Christians of times past and time yet to come:

Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!

This is our Easter joy, our Easter hope, our Easter salvation! Thanks be to God! Amen.

- Pastor Mark -

Staff of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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

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Easter SERVICES



Palm Sunday Service

Sunday, April 1st at 10:30am

10:30am- Worship Service

Reception of New Members

Maundy Thursday Service

April 5th at 7:00 pm



Good Friday Prayer Vigil

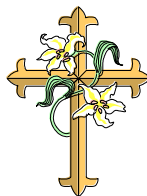
April 6th from 10am – 1pm

7:00pm - Tenebrae (Service of Shadows)

Easter Sunday Worship Service

Sunday, April 8th

10:30 am - Easter Sunday Service



United Methodist Women

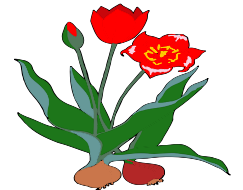
Books



Birthdays



Bulbs



**Come join the fun!
Celebrate!**

Yes, celebrate your birthday.

Plant a bulb!

Hear about UMW books

Buy a book that someone is finished reading

Bring a book to share or loan

APRIL 10 at 7:30pm

More info: Call Debbie Friscino

Laity Lines From Our Lay Leader

Easter is God's promise which his Son came to fulfill,
A promise of eternal life for all who seek his will.
Season of the budding trees, the lily in its glory,
The greening hills, the daffodils, the holy Easter story.
Easter is the joy of spring, God's gift and triumph, too,
Reminding us of Jesus' love in which we're born anew!"

Bishop's Day in the CMA District! Saturday, April 14th at the Leominster UMC – 9 a.m. to 12 noon. "A Call to Action" is the theme of this day with our Bishop, Peter Weaver and conversations surrounding Vital Congregations. Carpools are leaving from Fisk. Bishop Weaver retires in June.



Twenty Questions! Who is the rock in Matthew 16:18? What day is the Sabbath – Saturday or Sunday? Why is church attendance important? What are the attributes of God? How many human beings/people went onto Noah's Ark? What is one of the weirdest things you've ever eaten? If you could add two commandments to the existing ten, what would they be? What is your favorite book of the Bible? If you could perform one miracle – which one would you choose? How would your life be different if you knew that Jesus was returning later today? What bible translation do you like the best? Name two, just two, of your hidden talents! What turns you on spiritually? What do you think is the greatest invention in your lifetime? Can you name one thing that not many people know about you? Pastor Mark comes to you and asks you to pick 2 of the 3 hymns for next Sunday. What are your two choices? What church ministry, project or service will you be involved with in April?

Food Donation Program – Starbucks! For the past month, members of our congregation have gone to the new drive-thru Starbucks on Rte. 9 in Natick and have picked up food donations. You may have seen and tasted some of their breads and muffins during coffee hour, or have helped to repackage the items for delivery to MIHN, The Miracle

Kitchen at the Salvation Army, and a number of shelters in our area. Is this a ministry you might be called to serve in?

Pick-up and return of containers to Starbucks are Sunday and Wednesday. Friday's may be an added possible. Please let me know if you would like more details or would like to sign-up in April.

***God's Blessings, My Prayers,
Debi Henry***

Ring and Sing Pasta Dinner!

Chimes and Sing-A-Long

Saturday, March 31st

6:00 p.m. - Fisk - Whipple Hall

\$10.00 per person

\$5.00 seniors and kids age 6-10

Free - age 5 and under

\$30.00 Maximum for a family

All invited to

play the chimes!

Help support the UMYF Mission Trip - June 2012



YOUTH FOR HIRE PROGRAM

Need Help?

Do you have some odd jobs that need to be done

around the house? Do you need a babysitter?
House cleaning? Basement or Garage cleaning?

Leaves raked? Snow shoveled?

Garden weeded? Room painted?

Several Fisk youth are ready and willing to work for a donation towards their mission trip this summer.

Contact Deanna Leedy-Andreozzi.

Finance Update – April 2012

As we witness the love of our Savior, and prepare to celebrate HIS sacrifice, and HIS triumph, we take a moment to provide an update:

- Your financial support is within 3% of Budget through February – thank you.
- We are spending less than our budget.
- We continue to pray for improvements in our financial position.

The ministries of Fisk touch so many people in so many ways. Those ministries, as always, depend 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 2012.

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

Michael Bruns (Chair), Pastor Mark Goad, Debi Henry (Lay Leader), Thom Townsend (Chair-Admin Board), David Cail (Treasurer), Sherry Culver (Financial Secretary), Tom Carney (Trustees), Ernest Acquaaah-Harrison (SPRC), Greg Dickinson, Larry Drolet, Jen Garrant, Dave Longworth.

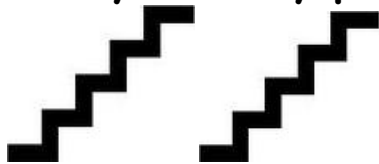
Step-Up Kids: Grades 3 - 5

Pop-Up Kids: Pre-K to Grade 2

Sunday, April 22, 2012

12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Bring your lunch, a flashlight, your voice and your baby picture!



Amazing Wonders!



Car Detailing Services!

Over the next few months, the Fisk Youth Group will be offering a Car Detailing Service on Sunday afternoons from 12:00noon to 2:00PM.

Cars will be washed, hand waxed, and interiors cleaned.

See Deanna or Josh Leedy-Andreozzi or Tom Carney for specifics on pricing, and to sign up for a date and time. Appointments **MUST** be scheduled in advance.

Save the date: Cookout

Sunday May 20th



Cookout and family fun time with games, immediately following Worship on May 20th. This is a fundraiser for the youth service trip.

\$10 person, \$20 per family.

Hot dogs, burgers and salads. Lots of games for kids! See a missions member for more info: Michelle Drolet or Heather Oluwole.

Missionary Update:

Mat and Kayle made it back to Zimbabwe safely and are busy as usual. Mat apologizes for the formatting of this news update but wanted to share the information and knew we understand the computer challenges they face!

Remember that they are asking for our continued financial support. Any donation you are able to contribute is greatly appreciated. The easiest way to do this is through Fisk. Checks may be made out to Fisk UMC with a note attached indicating that it is for the Pelletiers.

Questions? Contact Debbie Friscino

January-March Update from Zimbabwe:

Work Permits

In February, we finally received word on the status of our work permits—we got approved for another year! We are thrilled about this and recognize this is truly a miracle as many internationals are being kicked out of the country in the face of an upcoming election, so as not to sway the vote or report to the international news the corruption of the voting process.

Distance Education

Mat and another lecturer, Rob, are trying to determine a model of distance education that will work in the Zimbabwean context. Since theological education is not just concerned with a student's intellectual development, but also their lifestyle and behavioral development, we cannot copy other models of distance learning where a student never sees a teacher! We will probably do a hybrid system of some face-to-face lectures and some distance e-learning so that lecturers can assess the entire process of learning in the students. Rob and Mat are making progress on this model and Mat is also trying to help other lecturers incorporate small ways of e-learning, like requiring online discussions, in their current courses. Our hope is to be able to offer courses to those who can not make it to the college because of the distance involved or because of the time the courses are offered.

Theological College of Zimbabwe

TCZ has updated their website (www.tczone.com) to be smarter looking, more user friendly and to accommodate future plans for distance learning.

Mat is teaching a new class this term on the Pentetuch as well as his standard language courses, Hebrew I and II. Mat has been enjoying his Pentetuch class and has been experimenting with incorporating e-learning in his classroom by utilizing online forum discussions related to practical application of subject matter. For example, a student asked a question following a lecture about how NT authors use some OT passages in their writings. So Mat set up an online discussion forum as a way to help students research and discuss this topic, while helping them developing their critical reasoning skills.

TCZ has taken on two extension campuses—one out in the rural areas and one in the low-income suburbs of Bulawayo. These other campuses had previously been Brethren In Christ training centers, but due to accreditation issues and new laws from the department of higher education, they have turned to TCZ to ask us to take them on as our extension campuses. Mat guestimates that \$20,000 is needed to update the IT facilities on all three campuses.

Prayer Requests

--Pray for our students and faculty. One of our students, Trevor, had a young son who died. Also, please pray for our chaplain, Alfred, who had a kidney removed due to cancer and has another spot on his lung. Brad and Ruth Biddulph, who have come to TCZ to do fundraising and development, have had their work permits rejected. Please pray that their appeal would be approved.

--Pray for our local church here in Zimbabwe, as they work through some internal problems that have arisen.

--Praise God as we've received a discount on Calvin's school fees! He is going to a private Christian school and since we are working in full time ministry, Calvin qualified for a 50% discount on his fees throughout his entire time in elementary school! We are so thankful for this!

--Pray for the Africa Baby Company. We are changing our strategy as a business. Instead of trying to sell products directly to the public (like Tupperware salesmen), we are now trying to get into major department stores and baby stores who can sell our product. Pray for inroads and success in this area!

*The United Methodist Men
are going "out to eat" at*

Restaurant 45

45 Milford St. Medway MA

Tuesday, April 10 at 7:00pm

Carpools from the church will leave at 6:30pm

***Please notify Gary Hoyt or Brad Vining ...
if you are planning to attend.***



*It's time to order Lilies
and Tulips for Our
Easter Altar...*

Place your order now with the Altar Guild for one or more Easter Lilies (\$9.00 per plant) Or Tulips (\$7.00 per plant) in honor of/or in loving memory of those you wish to remember in this special way this Easter.

The Lilies and Tulips will be arranged on the altar for the Worship Service on Easter Sunday, April 8th. You may pick up your plant following the 10:30AM service. Or, if you choose to leave it on the altar it will be delivered to someone on the Fellowship of Concern.

Members of the Altar Guild will be collecting orders and money in Whipple Hall following Worship on April 1st. You may also mail or deliver your check and order in an envelope to the church office. Please mark it: **Attention Altar Guild.**

The deadline for orders is Monday, April 2nd.

(Please clip and return this form with your order)

please circle flower wanted below:

I/we would like to place an **Easter Lily** or **Tulip** on the Altar on
Easter Sunday:

() in honor of () in loving memory of

By _____

**Please word exactly as you wish it to appear in the
Easter Sunday bulletin. Thank you,
Linnea Fisher, Blanche Ciccarelli,
Lois Potter, Nancy Swan**



.....coming up in May.

Please begin setting aside items for the Semi-Annual Yard Sale on **Saturday, May 12**. All household items, toys, small furniture items, all books, bikes etc. are welcome.

Funds raised support local and worldwide missions for women, children and youth.

Items cannot be brought to the church until May 7. Please just store them until that week. If you have something large...we can try to sell it, but if it does not sell by 12 noon...you must take it back. **PLEASE – no clothes, televisions or computers.**

Janis Cail 781-894-1730

The North East jurisdictional meeting is in Hershey PA from June 14th -16th. The title of the meeting is "Come to the Party." We have room in the car for anyone interested in going. See Marcia Hoyt or Janis Cail for more information.