

The Messenger

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

April 2014

Reflections from Pastor Rick

The poet T. S. Eliot once wrote, "April is the cruellest month." I think he meant that April can be a month of stark contrasts and a month in which expectations can easily be dashed. The weather can go from near summer heat to a sneaky spring blizzard. The flowers can begin emerging, only to be buried in snow. We can begin to emerge from our winter hibernation, only to be forced back indoors by frigid winds. Yet, April holds too much promise to be dismissed so casually. April has the distinction of being the month that forces us to look ahead with eager optimism.

I doubt that I am alone in thinking that this has been the winter "from hell" as a friend described it. When I agreed to come to Fisk for this period of time, some folks warned me that the winter commute from our home in Lancaster might be a challenge. My response was, "We'll have one or two snowstorms at most, no problem." *Oops!* But now that April approaches, there is no looking back. We need only look forward. The birds WILL return; the snow WILL melt; the Red Sox WILL open at Fenway on the 4th; and the marathon WILL be run on Patriot's day. Indeed that last event is the sure sign of the human spirit triumphing over adversity.

The bombing at last year's marathon shocked and angered us as nothing had in many years. The tragic loss of life and limb has been almost incalculable. Yet out of this tragedy have come so many stories of courage, open heartedness, love, and support, that in a way, we have been made stronger and our sense of community has been deepened. The strength of those who were injured and the devotion of those who have supported them have been an

inspiration to the rest of us. Could any event have been more cruel than that bombing? Could any aftermath been more affirming of life and faith? Eliot may be right that April can be a cruel month, but out of its pain, we often find the inner reserves that faith and the human spirit provide. May this April be a milder one and may we celebrate its coming.

-Pastor Rick -



The lectionary readings for April:

April 6 Ezekiel 37:1-14 Romans 8:6-11 John 11:1-45

April 13 (Palm Sunday) Matthew 21:1-11

April 20 (Easter) Acts 10:34-43 John 20:1-18

April 27 Acts 2:14a, 22-32 1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31

Staff of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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

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Church/Judy's Email: fiskumc@aol.com
Cheryln's Email: deacongates@gmail.com
Josh & Deanna's Email: D&JLA@gmail.com
Eric's Email: emazonson@verizon.net
Church Website: Fiskumc.org

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, April 13



9:45am – Outdoor Palm Processional

10:30am - Worship Service



Maundy Thursday Supper & Service

Thursday, April 17 at 6:00 pm

Good Friday, April 18

*The Sanctuary will be open for prayer
between 12:00pm – 3:00pm*



Community Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday, April 19 - 10:00am – 12:00noon

Easter Sunday Worship services



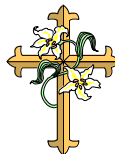
Sunday, April 20

7:30am - Early Morning Service

followed by a continental breakfast

10:30am – Easter Sunday Service

followed by fellowship hour



\$\$ Finance Update \$\$ April 2014

Our stewardship of God's gifts to us is on "Plan", and on "Budget" as we emerge from winter and look to spring renewal. The faithful support of you, the congregation, continues to be a blessing and we are spending wisely: Our financial update:

- Your financial support is within 1% of our Budget through mid-March,
- We are spending at, or less than our budgeted expenses, but snow removal is a concern,
- We are working with a deficit budget in 2014, and your continued support is needed.

Our church "budget" is our plan for ministries. We, and "it", 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, and facilities to worship, meet, minister, and provide programs. Our ministries are US...and our efforts are supported by our stewardship and giving. With prayer, cooperation, intentional dedication to growing our church, and HIS grace, we will respond and succeed in 2014.

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

Michael Bruns (Chair), Pastor Rick Black, Dorothy Phillips (Lay Leader), Thom Townsend (Chair-Admin Board), David Cail (Treasurer), Sherry Culver (Financial Secretary), Geoff Del Sesto (Trustees), Tom Currie (SPRC), Larry Drolet, Frank Foss, Jen Garrant.

May messenger deadline: April 25



NEUMC Board of Laity Address Contest

An Invitation To All New England Annual Conference Laypersons

The Conference Board of Laity is pleased to invite all laypersons of the New England Annual Conference to participate in a contest to deliver the Laity Address at the 2014 Annual Conference when it convenes in June at Gordon College. The address must be on the theme of this year's session: "On the Wings of Love: Powered by Presence and Service."

It is not necessary to be a lay member of the conference to participate. All submissions must be received by video, and the address must be 15-20 minutes long. The deadline for receiving proposals is May 1, 2014. For further information or to indicate your interest in entering the contest, please email Rene Wilbur at lwilbur@vermontel.net

Adult Sunday School

9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

All adults are invited! Room 9

On the Road Again!

In this Lenten Study and Faith Journey written by James W. Moore, we will explore the significance of Jesus' experiences on the road, and we will take a close look at some of the people he met along the way.

April 6 – Luke 13:10-17

On the Road with the Woman Bent Double

April 13 – Palm Sunday – Matthew 27:15-26

On the Road with Pontius Pilate

April 20 – Easter – Luke 24:13-27

On the Emmaus Road with Cleopas and Friends

A letter from Helen Hollingworth:

Dear Friends,

I want to express my deep appreciation for all the prayers which are being said for me. God is truly answering your prayers for me as I am making progress in reaching my goal of finally being able to walk without the use of a walker or other aid. I have just graduated from the wheelchair, although I have to use it at times. I am experiencing less pain in my back although I have to be very careful. My hand has mended and is beginning to respond well to therapy.

Thank you also for the cards and visits, the plants, the beautiful altar flowers, the church bulletins, the Upper Room's, and the art projects while I was at Mary Ann Morse. All of your thoughtfulness has deeply touched my heart, and has meant so much to me. I brought all of my cards with me here to Sunrise where I have been for week and they are now arranged along my wide windowsill where I am continuing to enjoy them. I miss you all so much. I miss being in church with you each Sunday, and I miss you, Pastor Rick.

Thank you, Pastor Rick, for all of the creative and wonderful things you have been and are still doing for our church. I have not yet been able to deal with my loss of my home and life as I have known it. You are never far from my thoughts.

*With love always,
Helen Hollingworth*

The heart knows no distance. - God Bless

Worship Commission

Holy Week will provide us with the opportunity to celebrate Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem, His last moments with the disciples, and the agony of His crucifixion. What a wondrous morning Easter will be when we remember the events that came before. Hallelujah! He is Risen!

Your Worship Team

Barbara Beekman – Chair

Joanne Billo, Pastor Rick Black, Sherry Culver,

Geoff Del Sesto, Rev. Cheryln Gates, Leo Jaco,

Eric Mazonson, Lois Potter,

Kathy Reynolds, and Thom Townsend



*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 (\$10.75 per
plant) Or Tulips (\$7.25 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 20th. 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 March 30th, April
6th and April 13th. 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 14th.

(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:

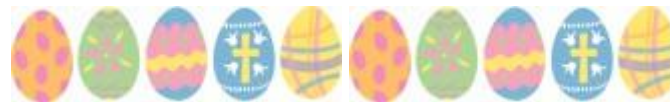
() in honor of () in loving memory of

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



Fisk Easter Egg Hunt
Saturday April 19th at 10 AM.



Come rain or come shine, children ages 1-8 are invited
to participate in our Easter Egg Hunt and then join us for
refreshments and Easter crafts in Whipple Hall.

We are excited to offer children and families in our
community the opportunity to share fellowship and
Easter treats with our Fisk families and to learn more
about us and our Sunday School offerings. And, we hope
to see many of them back on Sunday morning!

What you can do to help:

- hide eggs on Saturday morning at 9 AM
- stuff goodie bags for every child
- greet families and serve refreshments on Saturday
from 10:00am - 12:00noon
- invite your neighbors, friends, colleagues
- distribute fliers and post card
announcements in our community when
available
- serve on the Planning Committee



Questions: Deborah Hernandez, Susan Carney or Marcia Hoyt

United Methodist Women

April is an exciting month for our women at Fisk. We are women organized for mission and have great programming and activities to fulfil that purpose.

April 5-Saturday in Wilmington MA

This is our annual Spring Gathering of the women in our Central Mass. District and we are proud that Sherry Culver is the President of this group. Let's support her. The Programming Committee has planned an interesting day for all women and older teens. Child care is available. Flyer is elsewhere in the Messenger. Please join us—at this point we have 12 Fisk women registered and carpooling is being organized. This is an "OUT OF THE BOX" experience!

April 12-Saturday in downtown Natick

We will be WALKING AWAY HOMELESSNESS! The Family Promise annual fundraiser is a WALK from the Natick Common to the NHS and back...if you are interested and able...otherwise some of us will walk around the Natick Common.

Pledges are being accepted either online or see Debbie Friscino. How many people does it take to WALK AWAY HOMELESSNESS? Consider joining us. Mission Work with our feet...and pledges!



April 24-27, Thursday through Monday in Louisville KY

This is the quadrennial meeting of the United Methodist Women. We have 5 women who have made arrangements to attend ASSEMBLY. This wonderful celebration of WHO WE ARE! We will be part of 7000 women singing praises to God, participating in Bible Study, acting in mission, discussing social action and educational opportunities...all while we have so much fun... through our National connections. Please pray for all of us.

Janis Cail, President

Church Yard Sale Saturday, May 10



Our United Methodist Women hold two Yard Sales per year (May and October), these are two of the events that support our budget for mission work locally, nationally and internationally.

Please begin putting your items for the sale in a special place. Remember to **Recycle--Reuse and Repurpose**...this is the place! During the week of May 5 these items may be brought to the church for the sale on May 10.

We also have added a Bake Sale to this event! We are looking for support for the Pelletier's as they venture off to bring the word of Jesus Christ to South Africa as they begin a new connection with a Theological Seminary there. Buy a pie, cake or goodie for Mother's Day (May 11)



Prayer Shawl Ministry meets every Wednesday at 10:00am (see Joanne Billo or Winnie Sinclair)

2014 Reading Program is available in Ogle Parlor on the bookcase (see Barbara Beekman)

Vacation Bible School – 2014

In 2012, we held a Vacation Bible School in August and approx.. 35 students attended. We did not have VBS last year 2013 due to lack of volunteers. We do think this is an important week for our children and the community, if you are moved to either be the Director or to teach, please let me know by April 13th.

We have lots of support staff, and lessons will be provided.

Without a Director and some teachers we will have to bypass this year as well. Dates would be decided by the Director . Thanks in advance. - Susan Carney -

Our Lenten Journey

Soup and Bread...followed by Meditation

If you have not joined us for this wonderful experience...you have two more opportunities! We gather for a wonderful variety of soups each week and enjoy the time together in fellowship as we nurture our bodies.



Rev. Cheryln Gates has planned a meditation time (for those interested) for 20 minutes following the supper.

The wonderful music has been provided by Sandra Silcott (guitar) and Tian Zhang (keyboard). The room is peaceful, tranquil and lit with candles.

April 2 and April 9 are the last two Soup and Bread nights of this series. Come at 6:00pm for supper and we conclude by 7:20pm.



Marathon Monday Invitation

Monday, April 21

Annual Gathering at the Hoyt's

Gary and Marcia Hoyt invite you to their home for the Boston Marathon. We gather for coffee and donuts...and popcorn, Pepsi, hotdogs and all the goodies that people bring to share. You can walk through "the path" and over the train tracks to watch any or all of the Marathon...or just stay and visit...your choice.

The wheelchair and impaired participants should come through Natick around 10am and the elite runners at 10:30-11am.



From the Missions Commission

Save these Dates!



Fisk Habitat Build Day:
on Saturday April 12th
8am-12pm or 1pm-4pm

There are still a few slots to fill on both shifts

Open Door - Thurs June 26th 5:00pm
Help Cook (menu is still under construction) and/or
help serve. It is always a great time!

We are still collecting for Veterans Kits.
Please bring in either items or completed kits
by April 12th. We will be delivering them the
following week. We are still a little short of
our 50-kit goal. Thank you all for helping!



Fisk First Annual Children's Fashion Show and dinner!!



Date: Saturday, May 10th

Time: 5-7 PM

Where: Fisk Memorial UMC
106 Walnut Street, Natick

Who: Everyone is invited!
Singles, Couples & Families!

What we need from you: Boys and Girls from 2-9 who
want to be models, ...we will do the rest.

Join us for an evening full of great food and entertainment.
Details will be added in the bulletins on Sunday.

Updates from Family Promise



Save the DATES:

Now is the time to start planning your dinners, host evenings or overnights for our host weeks this summer. Guests will be staying at Fisk from ***Sunday July 13th- Sunday July 27th***.

Family Update:

Jesula, John and Jay (a family who was with us last summer) are doing well in FPM's Transitional Housing Program. Jesula will be attending Mass Bay to receive her Central Processing Technician certification.

The following note is from Beth:

Dear Friend of Family Promise Metrowest,

I am pleased to share that Family Promise Metrowest has received a personal letter of commendation from Governor Patrick for our service and successful efforts to empower families. This honor is testimony to the passion, care and commitment that you and our many supporters have provided and continue to provide to our organization and our families. Together we are making a difference in the lives of the families that we serve and bringing much needed awareness to the very real issues of poverty and homelessness.

With gratitude,

Beth Cooper
Executive Director

Update from Visioning Team Dorothy J. Phillips, Lay Leader

Rebekah Simon-Peter was the plenary session speaker at the Central Massachusetts District 2014 Leadership Workshops on February 22, 2014 in Framingham, MA. The title of her message was *From Members to Disciples: Creating a Culture of Renewal*.

She discussed bringing renewal to a congregational church; one of the keys to achieving this state is having a Vision. First, what is your vision? She stressed *Speak your vision; Say your vision*. Her message led me to rethink Fisk's vision statement for ease of quoting and embracing.

Current Vision Statement or 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.* Potential new easy to quote Vision Statements (other ideas welcomed):

1. *Transformed and Transforming through Grace!!!*
2. *Moving forward with God in Charge!!!*

The Visioning Team continues to work toward implementing programs and activities that focus on the growth of God's Kingdom on earth, resulting in a healthy Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church. We met recently in both February and March of 2014. The questions that the Team raised centered on implementation:

- Does Fisk offer what people in our communities need?
- Are we convinced about Fisk programs?
- If we are convinced, will we share or let others know about these programs?

In addition, each person asked him or herself: If I did not have relationships at Fisk, would I come?

Immediate Plan: Build on success of previous or current programs focused on children and families. Most programs are developed through the commissions and organization that compose the Council on Ministries.

1. Hospitality Hour in Ogle Parlor before worship for the parents of children attending Sunday school and other early arrivals.
2. More welcoming appearance of the Narthex
3. Small group ministries on "Grace" in home(s) since January 2014
4. "Movement and Music Time" every other Saturday for 2-7 years old children at no cost. The program will continue through April.
5. Second Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt on April 19, 2014
6. Mother's night out- in planning stage
7. Children sing at worship monthly- being implemented
8. Vacation Bible School – in planning stage and seeking a director

A new Fund-raising committee has also been organized and is planning its events for 2014.

The Visioning Team welcomes your idea, comments and above all your support. Ephesians 3:20 *With God's power working in us, God can do much, much more than anything we can ask or imagine.*

Members: Pastor Rick Black, Barbara Beekman, Michael Bruns, Zachary Gates, Deborah Hernandez, Marcia Hoyt, Dorothy Phillips, Thom Townsend. Our next meeting is Sunday, April 13, 2014.

Join the Fisk Team to WALK AWAY HOMELESSNESS

It's time for the 5th Annual Walk Away Homelessness Walkathon on Saturday, April 12, 2014

Registration begins: 7:30am
Walk begins : 8:30am
Children's Concert: 9:30am-10:30am
Awards and announcements : 10:30am.

Come join the fun! Walk the full 3.1 mile course from the common to Natick High School and back, take a mini walk around the Common or simply come cheer us on! Sign up to walk or sponsor the team on Sunday during coffee hour.



If you want to donate using a credit card or if you plan to solicit donations yourself, register for the Fisk Church Team (leader: Debbie Friscino) online at:

www.familypromisemetrowest.org

For every \$100 you raise for Family Promise Metrowest you will receive 1 free raffle ticket for either:

- **Two JetBlue round-trip tickets for anywhere in the U.S.**
- **MS Surface RT 32 Tablet Bundle w/ Touch Cover and Pen.**

Stacey Peasley and her band will perform that morning on the Common. There will be snacks provided by Whole Foods, face painting, crafts, raffles and much more!

Your participation is key to the success of this outreach ministry.



All women are invited
to Relax, Relate, Recommit, Reinvigorate and
Renew your Body and Spirit!

**Join us Saturday, April 5, 9:15am
Wilmington United Methodist Church**



We have been thinking **“OUTSIDE THE BOX”**. We have planned a great day! Come and enjoy a day of **fellowship**. If you are knitting a **Prayer Shawl**, bring it with you and share how your Prayer Shawl Ministry works. Relax with a **hand waxing**. If you have not done this it is awesome. **Create** or use our cards to **write a note to a missionary**. Visit the **Prayer Garden** at the host church. Make a **Pocket Prayer Quilt** to take home...it only takes a few minutes...really! Discuss types of **Prayer**. **Browse** and purchase resources, **books, Prayer Calendars** and Gift Books. **Read** a selected article from **response magazine**...to yourself. Also this is one of the last chances to buy a **green polo shirt** ordered by the Conference UMW team (limited supply). Be ready for a few **surprises!** This is intentionally a free-flowing meeting, you choose what to do and when. Samples of many things you can bring back to your group, class or circle. Reinvigorate yourself with a **wonderful lunch**. Closing **devotions** at 1:30pm.

INGATHERING: Pot holders, bath mats, bath towels, wash cloths and sheets (all sizes) new or gently used or NEW bed pillows. These items are for individuals and families in transition and moving to a new apartment or home. “Mission of Deeds” will distribute the items to those in the broader Wilmington area.



**REGISTRATION FOR SPRING GATHERING
Deadline is March 31, 2014**

Name _____

*Registration and lunch is **\$9.00 each**.*

*Checks payable to: **CMA UMW***

Send to: Marcia Hoyt 8 Bacon St. Natick MA 01760