

The Messenger

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church - 106 Walnut St., Natick, MA 01760
(508) 653-1674 www.fiskumc.org

April 2016

Reflections from Pastor Xia

Dear Fisk church family and friends,
Grace and peace to you! Greetings in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

March 27 was Easter Sunday. We celebrated the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. From this April to mid May, we are in the Eastertide, the liturgical season of fifty days from Easter Sunday to Pentecost Sunday. On Easter Sunday we heard the amazing news that the story of Jesus is not over. When the women went to the tomb early on the first day of the week, they discovered that the tomb was empty and that Jesus was alive. Their relationship with Jesus would continue.

Almost two thousand years later, you and I continue to celebrate that wonderful good news. Because of the resurrection, the story of Jesus goes on. We have been called to follow Jesus on an adventure that will never end. That wondrous love keeps calling us to discipleship and spiritual practices.

As we follow Jesus' example, we are challenged to use one measurement to evaluate our actions: Am I becoming more loving? Am I loving God and neighbors more deeply from the heart? What might Christian homework be? And what is the goal of the Christian homework that you have been given?

On the night before he suffered, Jesus had supper with his disciples, washed their feet and gave them a new commandment: "... Love one another as I have loved you. By this shall the world know that you are my disciple: That you have love for one another."

How do you respond to a love that calls us to genuinely love one another?

If I exhaust all my resources and do all things perfectly, but fail to love my brothers and sisters,

what would Jesus say to me? If my study of scripture and time in prayer don't drive me out of my house/church and into relationship and service, how can genuine mutual love grow? All my actions shall spring from love and commitment to my community, rather than from obligation or simple habit. That is what I learned from the commandment of Jesus.

That genuine mutual love that Jesus has showed us is the solid foundation on which we find our purpose and goal. From there we can go out to make transformation of the world, one step at a time. Together let us express that love and commitment outside of church walls, be a blessing to others, and see how God will plant and multiply our seeds of faith. By the grace of God, let it be so.

Deep blessings,

Pastor Xia Jiao-Chun

Bishop Susan Hassinger visiting on April 17th

As part of BU's School of Theology "Seminary Month", professors and students arrange to spend time in local congregations. **Members of SPRC are pleased to say that Bishop Susan Hassinger, retired bishop from the New York Conference, will be visiting Fisk and preaching on Sunday April 17th.** Please plan to join us to welcome her to Fisk.

Following the service, we will have a light lunch, providing us an opportunity to talk with her and share our ministries. In addition, Pastor Xia will be presenting pictures from her recent trip to the Holy Land and sharing her experiences.



Laity Address - Annual Conference

The Conference Board of Laity is pleased to invite all laypersons of the New England Conference to participate in a challenge to deliver the Laity Address at the 2016 Annual Conference session.

The address will be delivered on Thursday, June 16, in Manchester, NH. It is not necessary to be a lay member of Annual Conference to participate in the challenge.

The 2016 Annual Conference theme is "Planting Seeds of Trust," and the laity address must be on that theme. The Scripture is John 13:34: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another." (NRSV).

The address should be 15-20 minutes long. Entrants must submit a written copy of their entire proposed address along with a video of themselves delivering the first five minutes of the address. The deadline to submit your proposed address and video is May 4.

For more information on how to submit your entry or to ask any questions about entering the challenge, talk to Barbara Beekman, Lay Member or Debi Henry, or please email Conference Lay Leader Rene Wilbur at lwilbur@vermontel.net.

Where Have All the Cross Notes Gone?

After removing the notes from the cross - not read - they were placed in a "Prayer Pot". At the summer Women's Retreat they will be burned during a special ceremony.



We continue on a regular schedule of Caring for our church members by notes, cards, calls, fruit baskets, prayers and wherever else we can help.

We helped with a luncheon requested by Pastor Xia for the District meeting of the Bishop and Asian Pastors. It was our pleasure to be asked and to have served in this way.

Palm Sunday, while greeting, we distributed a card outlining what we are doing in Ministry of Caring and asking all who would enjoy helping in this ministry to give us a call. If you did not receive one let us know.

Just a reminder of our next potluck supper . . .

April 9th – please sign up with your dish/s to share at <https://mealtrain.com/1573mq> and plan to come and enjoy the dinner out and the Hymn Sing to follow.

Where Faith and Life Connect

Marilyn Donnelly and Pat Price, Co-Chairs



MUSIC & MOVEMENT TIME

For Kids Ages 2 To 7

April 2 and 16

11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

The event is FREE! No registration is required.

**For more information and pictures
of past classes, visit:**

www.fiskumc.org/music-and-movement.html



Join the Fisk Team walking away homelessness!

Meet us on the Natick Common on Saturday morning April 9th at 8:15 to participate in the Family Promise Metrowest Walkathon. Your donations may be turned in there or online:

Fisk Methodist Church team at
<http://walk.familypromisemetrowest.org/donate.asp>

In participating, we join other churches in the Family Promise network in believing that together, as a community, we can make a difference in addressing the issue of family homelessness.

The model is simple. 18 host congregations convert their rooms into bedrooms one week at a time to provide safe, temporary shelter to our families. Volunteers arrive bringing meals and staying overnight while providing a warm, nurturing environment. In the morning, families return to the day center where professional case managers assist in addressing the root causes of their homelessness. Goals are addressed in areas including budgeting and employment, to ensure that families have an opportunity to move themselves out of poverty. When ready, our families are supported as they transition back into the community

During this process, we require families to work while also saving 80% of their income after expenses. Yet we don't want them to just have a job; we want them to reach their highest earning potential. Through our Steps for Success program we provide case management and offer subsidies for education, day care and transportation allowing families to reach their employment goals and bring their families permanently out of poverty.

We are unique because we believe families need more than shelter. By providing encouragement and resources while also addressing barriers, we have seen families bring themselves out of homelessness and into a life where they can sustain themselves and their children.

Family Promise Family Updates

Yusuf, Jane and Joviah continue in Transitional Living Program and are doing well. Joviah is enrolled at FACE preschool and they are looking for an affordable apartment in Natick so that Joviah can keep the friends she has made at FACE over the years.

Bility, Damian, Jaiden and Sebastian continue in Transitional Living Program. Bility is still working as a full-time teacher's assistant at the Montessori School in Natick.

Jackie and Jahneay, Damari, and Rodd are pleased to be in their own apartment. Jackie continues to work full time at Walgreen's.

Tacha, Adeyah and Jeremiah are doing well, as are

Jennifer and Julius, William, Yari, and daughters, Destiny and Jaylianis. Yari and William both received their licenses and took ownership of a car that was donated to them. William is still working full-time as a dietary aide at Whitney Place and Yari is working 30 hours per week as a prep chef at Papa Razzi's in Framingham. Destiny now has afterschool 5 days a week at Brown Elementary and Jaylianis is enjoying Head Start and will be registering for Kindergarten this month.

Thanks for your support of this important ministry. Together we can walk with the Lord in ministry and in serving others.

For more information, contact
Debbie Friscino (fris@rcn.com)



Calling all Walkers! Join the Team! Support a Walker!

Fisk is walking in Family Promise's Annual Walk Away Homelessness event, April 9, starting at Natick Common at 8:15. We need walkers and you may support our Fisk Team by making a donation in support of a walker or the Fisk team. Donations may be made directly on the Family Promise website:

<http://walk.familypromisemetrowest.org>.

Look for the Fisk Methodist Church team. Or you may support by check, made out to Fisk UMC, designated for Family Promise. Checks may be placed in the offering plate or left in the church office. Note in the memo section of the check that it is for Family Promise.

Family Promise ensures that the promise of safe housing is for everyone – let's help Family Promise fulfill its mission to support families and provide transition housing. Last year our congregation raised over \$1000 in pledges for the Fisk Team of Walkers. How about it Fisk? Can we do this again?

MISSION POSSIBLE

Join the Fisk Team! We are meeting at 8:15 on the Natick Common, by the statue and bus shelter.

As the Missions Committee, we are supporting the **Family Promise Walk Away Homelessness** event on April 9. See Debbie Friscino for more details or



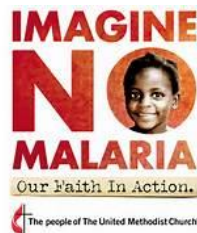
sign up online for the Fisk Team. We have planned a **One Day Mission Trip** (actually 3 days, if you choose) for June 6-8 (Monday-Wednesday) in Maine.

We'll travel to Harrison Maine, stay overnight, travel to Salem Maine (United Methodist Economic Ministry) to do a "day of mission work" then returning to Harrison for a relaxing day and return home. Interested? We are hoping to have a group of 5-10 willing to go on this trip. We will see UMEM in action and help out at the center as well as maybe help a local resident with chores...depending on who can attend. Can we count on you?

See Marcia Hoyt 508-655-0077

The Missions Committee is busy holding up two very important programs for Fisk through the month of April and May.

#1 The ongoing collection of your gifts for **IMAGINE NO MALARIA** are still being received. As you can see on the bulletin board in the hallway, Fisk has a pledge of \$2500.00. We are at \$1000. We can do better! Can we hit the 50% level by May? I think so!



The statistics are staggering. We (you) can help change that. Our denomination, the United Methodist Church, has taken on this challenge. As a connectional church we need to do our share. Help save a life! Make a donation. Mark your check—**MALARIA**.

Since this effort started in 2000, the death rate has been cut dramatically. Today, instead of losing a

child or adult every 30 seconds, one dies every 60 seconds from this treatable and preventable disease.

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is challenging the UMC with some matching funds.

Thanks for your attendance and support of the "Taste of Mission" dinner. We did raise \$504.00 that evening. Great work, thank you!

#2

Fisk is striving to collect 100 **HEALTH KITS** to replenish the UMCOR Depots (United Methodist Committee on Relief).

Recently 20,000 kits were shipped to Haiti to help rebuild their country. These kits are basic to good health and may be the only thing a child or adult actually owns. Our church denomination sends these where needed in times of crises, such as floods, fires, war etc.

Here is the shopping list—please follow it closely, the kits must be standard.

Health Kit Materials

Value about \$12.

- **1 hand towel**
 - 15 x 25 inches to 17 x 27 inches
 - Kitchen, cleaning, and microfiber towels not acceptable
- **1 washcloth**
- **1 comb**
 - Comb needs to be sturdy and longer than 6 inches long;
 - No pocket combs or picks please
 - Rattail combs and combs without handles are acceptable, with a minimum of 6 inches of teeth
- **1 metal nail file or nail clippers**
 - No emery boards, please
- **1 bath-size soap**
 - 3 oz. and larger sizes only
 - No Ivory or Jergens soap- due to moisture content
 - Do not remove from original packaging
- **1 toothbrush**
 - Adult size only
 - Do not remove from original packaging.
- **6 adhesive bandages**
 - ¾ inch to 1 inch-size
 - Common household Band-Aids.
- **1 plastic bag**
 - One-gallon size sealable bag only.

These kits or items for the kits can be put in the basket in Ogle Parlor or the basket in the office. Questions?

Call Marcia Hoyt-chair of Missions, Susan Carney, Janis Cail, Janis Townsend, Pat Price and Diane O'Loughlin.



April 5 at 7:30pm (Tuesday)

United Methodist Women will meet to hear Janis Cail and Sherry Culver share the information they learned about Climate Change and the justice issues surrounding it. They went to NYC last year to a seminar and will inform all of us of the issues we will face in time.

April 9 at 8:15am (Saturday) UMW will support the Family Promise Walk Away Homelessness event

April 30 at 9:30am (Saturday)
District UMW meeting

WOMEN IN PRISON

Supporting our Sisters
at the Wayland UMC

Speakers and discussion of what we can do to support incarcerated women and their children.
\$10.00 includes lunch and the program.

May 7 at 8:30am (Saturday)

SPRING YARD SALE

Bring all of your treasures that you no longer need and they will be found by a new owner! Bring items beginning May 2. Proceeds go to our Mission projects. Books, household items, small furniture, toys, bikes, baskets, puzzles, holiday items are all welcome. NO clothes or computers or printers.



Reading Program - Ongoing and regular program. See Terry Ames' article in this newsletter.

Prayer Shawl Group - Ongoing on Wednesday mornings at 10am.
Join this knitting and crocheting group.
See Joanne Billo or Winnie Sinclair

If you have any questions?
See Janis Cail, our President 781-894-1730

Mother's Day Gift

Mother's Day is Sunday, May 8th



Think about how comforting and warm a blanket feels when it is wrapped around you. Now, think how comforting and necessary it becomes if you were experiencing the aftermath of a hurricane or disaster.

Or what if you did not even own a blanket and your very survival was in doubt? How lucky most of us are never to experience that kind of pain.

The Church World Service has suggested that churches designate Mother's Day Sunday as Blanket Sunday. What a wonderful way to honor or remember that special "mother" or "grandmother" in your life.

For every five dollars collected the Church World Service will purchase and distribute a blanket to our brothers and sisters in their time of need throughout the world.

The MISSIONS COMMITTEE will have cards for you to give noting that you have made a gift in the name of your special person. Some cards are generic, in case you want to give a blanket for a Birthday gift.



*CWS works with partners to eradicate hunger
and poverty and to promote peace
and justice around the world.*

Marcia Hoyt-chair of Missions, Susan Carney, Janis Cail, Janis Townsend, Pat Price and Diane O'Loughlin.

April 2016

The Finance Committee has recommended, and the Administrative Board has approved this year's budget which is summarized below. As always, complete copies of the 4 page detailed budget are available any time in the Church Office.

Ministries Budget Support	2015 Final	2016 Budget	Change v 2015
Income	\$211146	\$208729	\$(2417) -1.2%
Expenses	\$215129	\$217550	\$2412 +1.0%
(Deficit)	\$(3974)	\$(8821)	\$4847 Increase

With prayerful optimism, and your support, we plan to reduce this deficit as the year progresses. Watch for upcoming events and fund raisers this spring, and spread the word of our great church. We will continue to plan and strive for growth. We urge everyone to support our ministries with your time, your talents and your on-going financial support. Evangelism is every single person's responsibility.

Members of Finance Committee, which includes representatives from other committees at Fisk: Larry Drolet (Chair), Pastor Xia, Dorothy Phillips (Lay Leader), Tom Currie (Chair-Admin Board), David Cail (Treasurer), Sherry Culver (Financial Secretary), Geoff Del Sesto (Trustees), Debbie Friscino (SPRC), Jen Garrant, Crystal Mayo and Thom Townsend

Get ready to join us!



**Fisk's
CAVE QUEST
Adventure**

**Vacation Bible School at Fisk
July 25 to July 29, 2016**

Join us this summer for games, songs,
learning, crafts, and fun! Invite your
friends to join
the adventure too!

Check the Fisk website
for more details in April.

www.fiskumc.org

Please join members of SPRC in welcoming John Bybee to Fisk

We are pleased to share the news that, as of March 28th, John has joined the staff and will be sharing his music ministry with us. As you can see from his bio, he brings a wealth of experience and a passion for music.

JOHN T. BYBEE II

John earned a Bachelor of Music degree with a major in Organ from the Conservatory of Music at the University of Missouri at Kansas City. Throughout his life, he has followed a calling to a vocation in music ministry, serving Presbyterian, Methodist, Christian, Baptist and Lutheran churches as organist, pianist and music director. An accomplished worship organist, he has considerable expertise in blending classical, traditional, praise, contemporary, jazz and gospel music styles. He is creative, enthusiastic, energetic, and passionate, taking to heart the scripture "Sing unto the Lord a new song," inspiring and leading the congregation to sing her song. He is dedicated to creating a vibrant music ministry through servant leadership.

John is a member of Old South Church in Boston, where he participates in jazz worship, Bible study and theological book discussions. Professional memberships include the Boston chapter of The American Guild of Organists, The Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, The United Church of Christ Musicians National Network, and The Fellowship of United Methodists in Music and Worship Arts

John provides organist services for weddings and funerals throughout New England; he is also a church organ consultant, and offers private instruction in piano and organ. In addition, he enjoys an "encore" career as a Life and Leadership Coach, creating lives of significance through intentional living. John is an avid reader of nonfiction with emphasis on issues of leadership, theology, current events and wellness, and embraces vegan and minimalist lifestyles. When not creating beautiful music or coaching clients, John may be found exploring New England, taking advantage of Boston cultural events and enjoying friendships.

We also offer our **thanks to Diane French** who served as interim organist for the past four months. She has coordinated the choir and shared her gifts and talents with us during both Advent and Lent. We are truly grateful to Diane for all that she has done.

Our Reading Program at Fisk

We have some great recommendations for books to read; take a look in Ogle Parlor, after church or during the week. There is a list for you to take and you may borrow a book, or look for a recommended book at your local library.



HERE ARE A FEW YOU MAY ENJOY FROM THE LIST:

Tilly - a young aboriginal girl coming of age in the 80's and her quest to identify with her heritage
"Inspiring "

Coaltown Jesus - a 17yr old wakes up with Jesus in his bedroom. Will he help Walker come to terms with the death of his brother? This one will make you laugh and make you cry . **Great for adults and teenagers**

Ms Brenda and the Loveladies - A heartwarming story of a woman who takes female prisoners into her home , as a halfway house. How it changes her views & how faith and love change her loveladies

The White Umbrella - Sex trafficking in the United States, an eye opener. What does the White Umbrella signify? Read the book and see.

Pick up a book, or go online or to the bookstore, with one or more of the recommendations. There are many more inspiring books for your spiritual growth. For those church members who have books out, please return them, as soon as you are done, to Ogle Parlor - so we can pass them along to others and share the great stories. Thank you.

Terry Ames -UMW Resource Program



The Hannah Circle
will be meeting on Tuesday,
April 12th ~ 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

April is National Humor Month - and - National Poetry Month! Come with your favorite joke (remembering we are "church ladies,") and bring your favorite poem - or tell us about it!

The Hannah's meet on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. Bring your lunch! Dessert and beverages provided.

Contact Nancy Parece (508-653-8687) or Nancy Swan (508-653-8151) if you can attend!

Fisk Youth

For youth and their friends in Grades 6 – 12 Youth
Fellowship Leaders: Bingxin Xu and Tian Zhang

APRIL

Plans are to hold regular MYF meetings after Sunday services and host special activities periodically for all youth. Friends are always welcome to attend MYF meetings and events.

Reminder: see <http://www.fiskumc.org/youth-and-children.html> to view MYF pictures and schedule updates.

What's happening in April?

- April 3 - MYF 12 noon
- April 9 - MYF Family Promise Walk --
Donation to sponsor a youth walker,
checks make out to FISK UMC
- April 16 - MYF Hike 9am

Looking ahead to May...

- May 22 - Campership Luncheon

How to contact Bingxin and Tian : For youth related activities, they will be using fiskyouth@gmail.com. If you have an idea for a youth program or wish to volunteer, contact them or:

Sherry Culver, Youth Council Chair,
sherrycd@comcast.net

Boston Marathon Day Gathering

This is your official INVITATION to the annual Patriot's Day gathering at the Hoyt's on Monday, April 18th. Coffee and donuts early. The earliest runners go by about 11:00am. From our house, you do have to "cross the tracks" and sit with a group of church people and cheer on your friends. Do we have any Fisk runners among the 30,000 runners? Let us know!



We supply popcorn, cold drinks and hotdogs...you are welcome to

bring anything to share. You may want to bring your lawn chair. Come to visit, even if you don't watch the runners. Start of the race is 10am and the first athletes will be by just before 11am.

Gary and Marcia
8 Bacon St. Natick

Church Email:	fiskoffice@fiskumc.org
Youth Fellowship Leaders:	Fiskyouth@gmail.com
John Bybee's Email:	fiskmusicministry@gmail.com
CherylN's Email:	deacongates@gmail.com
Church Website:	Fiskumc.org

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Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church
Old Fashioned Hymn Sing Orchestra
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In The Garden **Old Rugged Cross**
Rock of Ages **O For A Thousand Tongues**
Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty
Jesus Loves Me **How Great Thou Art**
Great Is Thy Faithfulness **Amazing Grace**
Let There Be Peace On Earth
Standing on the Promises **Are Ye Able**

POT-LUCK SUPPER FOLLOWED BY HYMN SING
SATURDAY – APRIL 9th - 5:00 p.m.

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Staff of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

Pastor:	Rev Xia Jiao-Chur
Admin. / Newsletter Editor:	Joanne Fitzgerald
Youth Fellowship Leaders:	Bingxin Xu & Tian Zhang
Minister of Music:	John T. Bybee, II
Deacon:	Rev. CherylN Gates



How To Reach Us

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