

# The Messenger

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

February 2014

## Reflections from Pastor Rick

In February we celebrate Presidents' Day, when we recall both George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Many years ago when our kids were young, Jan and I took them to Mount Vernon, Washington's home. Being there, one could feel the spirit of the man. There was a simple dignity that seems to reflect his personality. Washington did not covet power. When he had served two terms as president, many wanted him to continue in the position for life. Washington knew that if he did serve another term, the fledgling democracy would be in jeopardy. He clearly put the common good above his own and left for his home giving sound advice to those who would follow.

Lincoln was also a remarkable man, who literally gave his life to free slaves from bondage, and to preserve the experiment in government by, for, and of the people called the United States. No president served in a more perilous time, and none served with more selfless strength. Lincoln also had the gift of verbal eloquence which has been unequaled in our political life. His address at Gettysburg continues to inspire, as do the words from his second inaugural. I have been moved by the words of his first inaugural. When he was elected, several states were preparing to secede from the Union and violence was in the air. His entire address was a hope (prayer?) that war could be avoided, and the United States would remain united. He closed his address with these words:

**"I am loath to close. We are not enemies. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic**

**chords of memory, stretching from every battle-field and patriot grave, to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature."**

How sorry our political rhetoric today seems when compared to the conciliatory words of Lincoln. Perhaps, the "better angels" will finally emerge in our nation today.

*-Pastor Rick*



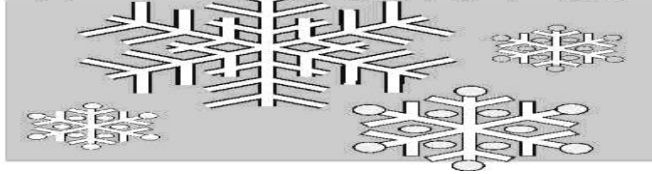
### Staff of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

<b>Pastor:</b>	<b>Rev. Rick Black</b>
<b>Deacon:</b>	<b>Rev. Cheryln Gates</b>
<b>Youth Minister:</b>	<b>Josh &amp; Deanna Leedy-Andreozzi</b>
<b>Choir Director /Organist:</b>	<b>Eric Mazonson</b>
<b>Admin. / Newsletter Editor:</b>	<b>Judy Bortolotti</b>

### How to reach us:

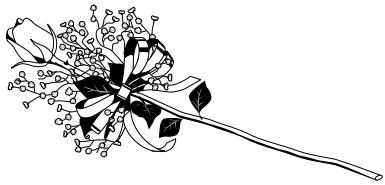
**Phone: (508) 653-1674**      **Fax: (508) 655-0587**  
**Pastor Rick's Email: Rickeblack@gmail.com**  
**Church/Judy's Email: fiskumc@aol.com**  
**Cheryln's Email: deacongates@gmail.com**  
**Josh & Deanna's Email: DandJLA@gmail.com**  
**Eric's Email: emazonson@verizon.net**  
**Church Website: www.fiskumc.org**

# Worship Service Participants for **FEBRUARY**



## Acolytes

February 2 – Sarah French  
February 9 – Elizabeth Mayo  
February 16 – Kelli Garrant  
February 23- Rose Currie



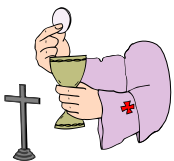
## Liturgists

February 2 – Rev. Cheryl Gates  
February 9 – Deanna Leedy-Andreozzi  
February 16 – Mark Owen  
February 23- Debi Henry



## Greeters:

February 2 – Gary & Marcia Hoyt  
February 9 – Carol Drew & Diane O'Loughlin  
February 16 – Debi Henry & friends  
February 23- Geoff & Sherry Del Sesto



## Communion Servers

February 2– Tom & Susan Carney

## Coffee Hour Hosts

February 2 – Ministry of Caring  
February 9 – TBA  
February 16 – TBA  
February 23- Geoff & Sherry Del Sesto



Remembering Rev. Janet M. Crain

Rev. Janet M. Crain, 75, died peacefully on January 26, 2014, after living gracefully with Alzheimer's for 8 years. She was the beloved wife of Dight W. Crain for 53 years.

Following God's call, in midlife Janet enrolled at Boston University School of Theology and graduated in 1987 with her Master's in Divinity. She was consecrated a diaconal minister in the United Methodist Church in 1987, ordained a deacon in 1996, and received the Denman Evangelism Award. From 1980 to 1998, Janet was Minister of Evangelism and Assistant Pastor of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church in Natick, where her nurturing, caring approach to ministry brought many people to follow Christ.

Janet graduated from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 1959, where she met Dight while both were musicians in the concert band. She had a beautiful alto voice and a lifelong love of music, singing in church choirs and choruses.

After college, Janet worked as an elementary school teacher in Braintree and Natick before lovingly raising her children. She was a longtime resident of Natick and Pocasset, where she enjoyed countless summer sunsets over Buzzards Bay with her family and friends. Most recently she lived at Linden Ponds in Hingham.

Friends are invited to the Everett Funeral Home, 4 Park Street, Natick ([www.everettfuneral.com](http://www.everettfuneral.com)) on Friday January 31 from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM, and also to her funeral service on Saturday February 1 at 11:00 AM at Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church, 106 Walnut Street, Natick.

Dear Fisk Family,

On behalf of Natick Service Council, we would like to thank you for your donation to our 2013 Holiday Program. Through the generosity of you and others in our community, 485 individuals received gifts through this program.

The need was considerably greater than ever before – especially among seniors who had a 40% increase in requests this year. In addition, the Service Council received requests from 81 children and teens living temporarily at the Travelodge in Natick.

Through your kindness and generosity we were able to pull together as a community and provide gifts for each of these individuals – more than 560 people. As we begin 2014, we want to thank you for all that you do to meet the needs of our Natick neighbors.

All the best for the New Year,

Kathie Fair Chandley & Amy Van Ermen  
Case Managers – Natick Service Council



***Do you buy Clementine's - the ones that come in the little wooden crate?***

If so, we would like you to save the “little wooden crate” for us. Just leave them in Ogle Parlor. Thanks. These are for a project next fall, but we cannot always get them in that season. *Marcia Hoyt*

Our Sunday Worship Services are broadcasted each week on Natick Pegasus!

Please check out the schedule on the link below

**Natick Pegasus - Access Channel**

*RCN 3 / Comcast 99 / Verizon 29*

[http://www.natickpegasus.org/Access\\_Channel\\_Schedule.html](http://www.natickpegasus.org/Access_Channel_Schedule.html)

## From the Mission Commission:

Please join our “Love Thy Neighbor” campaign for the food pantry! You can find decorated paper grocery bags in the back of the sanctuary. Bring them in each week filled with food and toiletries. Each will have a list of the items most needed.

**Missions will be assembling toiletry kits for the Veterans starting in February. We will be delivering the kits to Veteran's Inc. at the end of March. Our goal is 50 kits!**

**Veterans Inc.** is a national leader in ending homelessness among veterans. They have one of the highest rates in the nation – 85% – for transitioning veterans out of homelessness. They are headquartered in Massachusetts (Worcester), and are the largest provider of services to veterans and their families in New England. Since 1991, they have helped more than 50,000 veterans and their families. Operations are expanding further into New England and beyond in their goal of eradicating homelessness among veterans.

The kits will include:

1. Quart Ziploc bag
2. Washcloth
3. Bar of soap
4. Small Bottle of Shampoo
5. Razor
6. Comb
7. Toothbrush
8. Toothpaste Nail file (emery board)
9. 6 alcohol wipes (both 9 and 10 in a small snack baggy)
10. 6 cough drops



**There will be a basket in the Church office for you to drop your donations! Thank you in advance!**

### **A quick update on Habitat for Humanity.**

Please save the date of Saturday, April 12 for participation in the Build day for Habitat for Humanity. Signup sheets will be at fellowship hour each week. Or reach out the Heather or Michelle for more information.



Greetings friends and family.

A great start to a new year for UMYF. We have Open Gym Night on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January. The previous Open Gym Nights were huge success with around 10 youth. We are partnered with another youth pastor in anticipation of coming events. There are already 10 confirmed for this coming gym night and we hope to continue the outreach through the year.

We have also planned to partner with three churches for our winter retreat Feb 14-16. The theme for the weekend is "God is Real, God is present, and we need him." Using Luke 14:33 as our focus verse for weekend. **"Simply put, if you're not willing to take what is dearest to you, whether plans or people, and kiss it good-bye, you can't be my disciple."**

We anticipate 12-20 youth to come on the retreat and plan to have a great time. Pray for the leaders to speak truth and love of Jesus Christ into the hearts of the youth. Pray for the Youth to be open and accept the incredible gift of love that Jesus Christ has for them. Lastly, pray that we have fun!!

Thank you for your continued support.

-Sincerely,

Joshua and Deanna Leedy-Andreozzi.

## Finance Update – 2013 Results, 2014 Challenges

With the support of you, the members of the congregation, we finished the year 2013 with *less* of a deficit than we planned, but a deficit of \$5,836.

The year was a financial challenge for us as a congregation. We began the 2013 year with a deficit budget. We were blessed with increased pledge and financial support from many of you, but a few families moved away. We spent less than we planned. We also utilized precious cash reserves, as well as congregation resources under the care of the Trustees. With prayerful discernment, we concluded that we could not fully meet our Conference Mission Shares obligation for only the third time in the last ten years, paying only 50%.

This year will also be a challenge. As a congregation, we have responded with an increase in pledged financial support as a result of our Stewardship Campaign...thank you!! However, our obligations continue. Our church budget, our spending, is to support ministries, which touch so many people in so many ways: Education, Evangelism, Worship, Local Ministries, Children, Youth, Families and Seniors. Our budget provides pastoral leadership, dedicated staff, facilities to worship, meet, and minister. At present, we are working to close a deficit and present a budget in February.

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 2014!

Members of Finance Committee,

which includes representatives from other committees at Fisk:

Michael Bruns (Chair), Pastor Rick Black,

Dorothy Phillips (Lay Leader), Tom Currie (SPRC),

Thom Townsend (Chair-Admin Board), David Cail (Treasurer),

Sherry Culver (Financial Secretary), Geoff Del Sesto (Trustees),

Larry Drolet, Frank Foss, Jen Garrant.

**March Messenger deadline: February 27**



# One Day Mission U

## Saturday March 8, 2014

### Fisk Memorial United Methodist

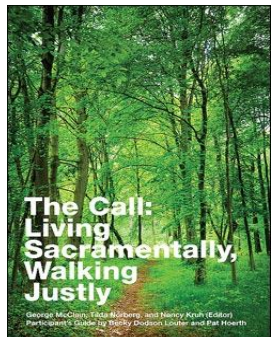
This is open to all (men, women and youth) interested in a day of fellowship and learning ...with lunch included. All for \$20.00!  
(some scholarship money is available)

OPTION #1 **The Roma of Europe** with Bobbi Bragan

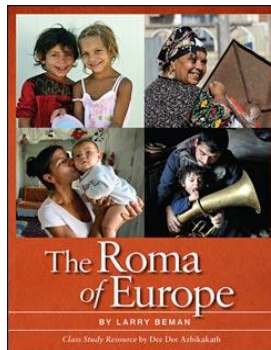
OPTION #2 **The Call: Living Sacramentally, Walking Justly** with Wanda Santos-Perez

*You will have the opportunity to choose one class for the two sessions or choose one session of each of the two offered courses.*

9:30 am Registration and coffee  
9:55 Devotions  
10:00 Introductions to the classes  
10:15 1<sup>st</sup> session of class (closing with a lunch Blessing)  
12:15 Lunch served  
1:00 2<sup>nd</sup> session of class  
2:45 Closing



Questions: Marcia Hoyt  
508-655-0077  
[marciahoyt@aol.com](mailto:marciahoyt@aol.com)



1. for bringing your children to Sunday School so they can receive lessons about our Lord.
2. for having them clean up the pews where they sit and returning the clipboards to the basket .... It teaches them responsibility and makes our job easier.
3. for encouraging them to acknowledge members of their church family as they walk by ... hello from a child is golden and just the right thing to do.
4. for sharing them with your church family ....we love them all.



Rev. French is wrapping up his class on Intercessory Prayer . Is there something else that you would like to see taught ? Is there something that you would like to teach ?

Short term classes seem to be the most successful . I hope to hear from you soon and thanks in advance.

Don't forget our Tuesday at 4:00 class with Pastor Rick. It is held in Ogle Parlor and I can pretty much guarantee that you will leave with the Word on your heart and mind.

-Susan Carney , Education Chair

Registration forms on the Bulletin Board near the Nursery