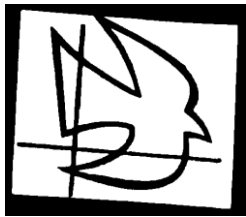


The Messenger

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

January 2012

Even youths will faint and be weary,
and the young will fall exhausted;
but those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength,
they shall mount up with wings like eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
they shall walk and not faint.
(from Isaiah 40)



It is good to be back! You can trust me on this one: I am glad to be off the couch and back to work. I may be a little stiff (and cranky) and I might limp a bit on occasion, and require a bit more rest than normal – but with time, prayer, and physical therapy, I will be healthy again. And perhaps you are tired of my saying it, but I'll say it at least once more: Thank you for caring. Your prayers, cards and gifts have lifted my spirit, and Margaret's, during a difficult time.

I take Isaiah's words very seriously – I have to, in fact, as I'm not as young as I used to be (though who is?). Notice the promise: ***“Those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength.”*** That is, by faith, through God's grace, we will be ***renewed***.

Good word, renewed. God doesn't promise to make us young again but to renew us. I've thought a lot about that and it seems to me – just to pursue the logic – that ***the spiritual opposite of old is not young but new***. God ***re-news*** us. At whatever age we are, in whatever

circumstance, God has the power and the will to make us new again. And that sounds like very good news!

I feel re-newed, and I know that this is God's grace acting in my life. Now that I am feeling better, I am able to look forward to what the new year will bring to our church. And this is what I am praying for:

I am praying for the re-newal of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church: That our passion for the Good News of Jesus Christ is strengthened, our eyes are opened to new possibilities, our doors are opened to new friends and disciples. I pray that our congregation's commitment to Christ and our neighbor is deeper than ever before.

And I am praying for you, too: That your faith is renewed and that you may experience peace and joy in Christ as never before.

My prayers and best wishes for 2012!

- Pastor Mark



Staff of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

Pastor:	Rev. Mark Goad
Admin. / Newsletter Editor:	Judy Bortolotti
Deacon:	Rev. Cheryl Gates
Youth Minister:	Deanna Leedy-Andreozzi
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A Night in Bethlehem

Many thanks to the almost 50 church volunteers and 2 friends from the Wayland Church who brought Bethlehem to life here at Fisk. How exciting to watch and listen to the children going through the village! All of your efforts were appreciated and I was reminded that when our church works together, we can do great things! I pray that our Lord found favor in our efforts. If you have any feedback that you would like to share with me, please email me at Susanjcarney@gmail.com



Council of Ministries - Night in Bethlehem

As chair of the Council of Ministries, I am thanking Susan Carney for taking the leadership role in directing this important event. Also, Thom Townsend did an outstanding job handling the lighting. The lighting is such an integral part of the setting...thanks Thom.

During the evening we visited with many NEW faces and families as they experienced the awe of this special time.

If you were involved and have suggestions or ideas for another year...please speak to one of us. We are always looking to improve what we do. Thanks to all who participated.

Marcia Hoyt

Laity Lines From Our Lay Leader
"It's a wonderful day indeed when we stop working for God and begin working with God!"

CMA Church Leadership Training will be held at Blackstone Valley UMC in Whitinsville on January 28th, 8:45 a.m. to 3 p.m. Here is your opportunity to share in worship and fellowship, to talk and discuss with other people from UMC churches in the Central Mass District on a variety of subjects. If you can only attend part of the day – it is so worth your time! The cost is \$10 per person and this includes materials, a continental breakfast and lunch. Registration forms are available in the literature racks and in the church office. Please complete and return to me by Sunday, January 22nd. We will be carpooling from Fisk. Morning workshop choices include Sunday School, SPRC, Stewardship and Church Finances, First Impressions – tools to becoming a welcoming congregation and exploring new experiences in worship. Afternoon workshop choices include Administrative Board, Board of Trustees, Lay Leadership, Children and Youth, Basics for Growing Your Church.

New Year – Service and Serving Sign-Ups! What will be the area at Fisk where you will commit your time, talents, heart and service in 2012? Need a suggestion? Would you like to be an usher, greeter, acolyte, cross bearer, host a coffee hour, assist in the church office, help with a mission project, assist in youth and children's ministries, sing in the choir, participate in UMM or UMW, be a pew janitor, donate flowers in memory or in honor of someone on a Sunday? Serve on the Worship Commission, Education Commission, Evangelism or Missions Commissions? Please take a moment and prayerfully consider! Look for the bright green sign-up sheets!

? ? Twenty Questions! To what extent are we able to fix or change ourselves? What keeps us from making necessary changes in our lives? What cultural pressures do we need to overcome to become servants like Jesus? What happens when we surrender our hearts to God? How can a person determine what they are holding back from God? Who are some of the "untouchables" in this world? What kind of things and

thinks prevent us from showing compassion to others? What does it mean to you to know that you are saved by God's Grace rather than your own good deeds? What sacrifices do we have to make to show compassion? When was the last time you sang a solo to God – and God alone? What is the difference between hearing and truly listening? Please explain - how can we hear something, agree with it – but not let it affect our behavior? In what ways does God communicate with us? Can you describe the steps between hearing the truth and obeying the truth? If your spiritual life was run like a corporation, what would your job description include? How would you complete this statement: – If Jesus is the vine, and we are the branches, then? Can you describe a time when you have felt God's protective hand on your life? What does it mean to me to know that God is with me every moment and wants to play an active role in my daily life? What clouds our perception of God's view of us? What is one of the greatest comforts you draw from God's constant presence? Can you describe what the hour is like for you before you arrive at Fisk's 10:30 a.m. worship service in the sanctuary?

Summer Camp! Camp Aldersgate has announced their summer specialty weeks for 2012. Young Adult Mission Camp Week for youth age 19+ is July 19-24. Horse Camp has two different weeks: June 26 – July 1 for elementary aged kids and July 17-22 for middle school and senior high students. Leadership Camp! Living Arts Camp! Weekend for Single Parents and Kids – Weekend for Grandparent and Me! Please check out Camp Aldersgate's website for more information. Brochures will be out soon.

Lenten Devotions! All are invited to write a devotion during January for the 2012 Lenten Devotions booklet! The sign-up sheet is in the church office. Sign your name next to the day and scripture and write a meditation or devotion for that scripture. All devotions need to be submitted by February 5th.

His Blessings, My Prayers,
Debi Henry

Feb. messenger deadline: January 22

United Methodist Women

- ❖ As 2012 begins a new year, the United Methodist Women's officers will be installed during worship on **January 8th**. We ask for your support for these women in your prayers. **Luncheon following the service for all women interested in missions for women, children and youth.**

President	Janis Cail
Vice President	Debbie Friscino
Secretary	Marcia Hoyt
Treasurer	Sherry Culver
Program Resources	Winnie Sinclair

Mission Coordinators:

Education/Interpretation	Susan Carney
Membership/Nurture/Outreach	Joanne Billo
Social Action	Elizabeth Coates
Spiritual Growth	Janis Townsend

- ❖ Prayer Shawl Ministry continues to meet on Wednesday mornings at 10:00AM. Come to visit and see what is happening!



- ❖ Reading Program will continue to meet once a month. January's book and time TBA.



- ❖ Thanks...for your support of the Annual Alternative Christmas Sundays. This allowed you to do some holiday shopping "while making a difference" to some mission agency or program. We supported Rosie's Place, MIHN, the Pelletier's African Baby Company and Mayan Hands.



- ❖ DON'T FORGET---UMCOR Health Kits are continuing to be collected in the basket in the parlor. The need still exists.

Golden Gates



Family Concert

Russian Children's Music and Dance group

This is a concert of traditional, classical and instrumental music, dance and humor!

These students are at the top of their academic schooling and their musical abilities.

Educational and Entertaining Performance for all ages!

Free Will Offering to support the Russian Children

Wayland Community UMC

January 8, 2012 at 7:00PM

United Methodist Men

Our group of men usually meets on the second Tuesday of each month. In January we will have a home-cooked dinner on the 10th at 7:00PM at the church. A speaker or program will follow. Come and join us.

The 2012 Officers will be installed on January 8.

<i>President</i>	<i>Gary Hoyt</i>
<i>Vice President</i>	<i>David Longworth</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Geoff DelSesto</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>David Cail</i>
<i>Reservations and Caller</i>	<i>Brad Vining</i>

We thank you all for supporting our Wreath Sale during December. These come from a United Methodist Mission site in Western Maine and help under-served families AND help the UMM pay their pledge to Fisk.



Walk Away Homelessness !

Saturday, February 4th – 8:30am

Have you ever been homeless? Or perhaps know someone who has been? A roof over our heads is one luxury that most of us don't ever think about. There are families in our communities that are in need. And our Fisk congregation has been a great partner with MIHN (Metrowest Interfaith Hospitality Network) over the past years, including hosting the families during the summer.

The third annual Walk-a-thon is coming up on the first Saturday in February. This is the biggest fundraiser of the year for MINH, lots of fun, refreshments and a few donated prize drawings. Each person in our congregation has the opportunity and ability to participate. Your contributions will go towards supporting housing, job placement, childcare, tutoring, health services, clothing and transportation for Homeless Families.

We are hoping that the Fisk team will again be one of the largest groups at the Walk-a-thon this year. We already have commitments from our Youth Group and from the UMW to take an active role in the walk around (inside) the Natick Mall. You and your friends are invited and encouraged to join us. Two years ago, this event was at the Mall and it was great fun. And if you can't join us walking, you can help sponsor one of us in the walking team.

Members of the Fisk Team will be asking for donations during the month of January. If you would like your contribution to be recorded in your church statements, please make your check payable to Fisk UMC and write MIHN in the notes section. To contribute, beyond walking, you may hand your donation to one of the team members, or leave or mail your donation to the church office.

If you have questions, or to sign-up, please contact Debbie Friscino, our Fisk-MIHN liaison, or Thom Townsend, our Walk-a-thon team captain.

Together we can help Walk Away Homelessness.

Food Pantry Update

Tom and I filled my car with the biggest food donation that we have brought to date. We could not have taken one more item! Thanks to all of you who donated to the box in the rear of the sanctuary.

If you have never seen the Natick Food Pantry, you may want to visit. I counted 9 volunteers stocking shelves and 2 others who were sorting the donated items. It was wonderful to see Natick working together to feed its citizens.

Keep up the great donations!

-Susan Carney-

Box Top Collections



We are collecting those little rectangles from food products that say "Box tops for Education," to help support Cooper Community Center in Boston. The container to collect these is in the kitchen by the Coffee Hour materials. We will keep you posted as to how we are doing. Each box Top is worth 10 cents. Thanks you in advance!



From the Missions Commission

**Support Missions
through Coffee Hour Donations!**

**Money collected through Coffee Hour donations
will be used to support Mission projects.
Donations for the month of January will go to
homeless veterans.**

**Please support this cause by donating your loose
change you may have around the house, in your car or
collected throughout the week.**