

The Messenger

THE SACRAMENT OF CHRISTMAS
adapted from Howard Thurman

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

January 2013



The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined. (Isaiah 9:2)

What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. . . . And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the

glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (from John 1)

There is no doubt in my mind that the most important affirmation we must hold in our hearts as we begin this new year is that *"light has shone in the darkness – and the darkness has not overcome it."*

Can anyone doubt that there is and remains much darkness in the world? Is anything really more obvious than this? Less obvious to many is the truth of Emmanuel – *God-with-us* – who is always coming to the world to heal, encourage, and offer hope of the world's redemption from sin, suffering and death. This is the Good News that the world is desperate to hear! How much are we – Christ's brothers and sisters – needed to shed the light of Christ's love within a dark world.

We have read the following affirmation, a favorite of mine, in worship. I share it with you again for your quiet reflection.

*I make an act of faith toward all humankind,
where doubts would linger and suspicions brood.
I make an act of joy toward all sad hearts,
where laughter pales and tears abound.
I make an act of strength toward feeble things,
where life grows dim and death draws near.
I make an act of trust toward all of life,
where fears preside and distrusts keep watch.
I make an act of love toward friend and foe,
where trust is weak and hate burns bright.
I make a deed to God of all my days –
and look out on life with quiet eyes.*

The light has shone – and the darkness has not overcome it.
It is our time to share the light with the world.

Peace and joy to all,

- Pastor Mark-

 **Happy
New Year** 

Staff of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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Deacon:	Rev. Cheryl Gates
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Worship Service Participants and Nursery

Sew-A-Thon 2013

January 5 9am to 12noon

Fisk United Methodist Church

We are hosting our second a **Sew-A-Thon** ... we have invited other church women's groups and this invitations is extended to all those interested.

The fun begins Saturday morning January 5 at 9:00am at Fisk United Methodist Church! Our sewing will begin at 9:00am or when YOU get there. (if there is enough interest we will schedule an additional Sew-a-thon in February)

Stitchers will be sewing *Little Dresses for Africa...and Haiti and Nicaragua*. These are very simple dresses, also known as pillowcase dresses that are delivered to little girls in countries where they need to experience HOPE and feel LOVED.



You should bring your sewing machine, thread, scissors and one yard of suitable fabric and coordinating extra-wide double-folded bias tape for each little dress. We will have some fabric and supplies available at cost. Bright colors and pretty prints are welcome. If you do not have a sewing machine...come and help cut, press and feed elastic through. Patterns and instructions will be available at the church. If you have suitable fabric to donate please call the church to arrange drop-off.

We will have coffee and goodies available!

Call or email Marcia Hoyt...if you are interested or know someone who might be interested.

508-655-0077 or marciahoyt@aol.com.

United Methodist Women

As we set forth on another year of Mission work for women, children and youth we ask for your prayers and support for the very important work of the United Methodist Women.

Our year will begin with **Installation** of the officers during worship on January 6. Come and support—Janis Cail as our President and her officers.

Following worship there will be a **Luncheon** for ALL women interested in the work of the United Methodist Women...or hearing about just what we do as a group within the church structure. **All are invited!**

The United Methodist Women are also sponsoring a 2013 **Sew-a-thon** to make more Little Dresses for Africa. This is a great time of mission work and fellowship and there is something for everyone to do...just come on January 5 at 9:00am. See article elsewhere in this newsletter.



SAVE THE DATE!!

MARCH 2, 2013 from 3-8pm

Here's something to look forward to during the long winter months. The Council on Ministries is planning a **CABIN FEVER PARTY** for the whole family at Fisk! There will be activities, a meal, entertainment and more, but most especially a time for "Fisk Family and Friends" to have some fun and reconnect. Please put **March 2nd** on your calendar and look for more information which will be coming soon.



Walk Away Homelessness !

Saturday, February 9th – 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 Family Promise (formerly named Metrowest Interfaith Hospitality Network -MIHN) over the past years, including hosting the families during the summer.

The fourth annual Walk-a-thon is coming up on the second Saturday in February. This is the biggest fundraiser of the year for Family Promise, 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 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. Last year, Fisk had the largest team 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 Family Promise 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-Family Promise liaison.

Together we can help Walk Away Homelessness!!

Missions Commission



SAVE THE DATE!

Missions Work Day

Cooper community Center Work Day

Saturday, February 2nd - 10:00am - 3:00pm

We have an opportunity to serve together to support a wonderful resource for local Community Families.

Most likely, we will be painting. Details to follow..

Hattie B. Cooper Community Center has served greater Roxbury and its surrounding neighborhoods for nearly 100 years, providing under-served children and their families with vital educational programs that facilitate growth and development, while creating opportunities for future success - cooperctr.org



Last few days for dropping off winter coats for "Coats for Kids" - ends January 7, 2013

In the spring, look for.....

- a visit from Missionary Belinda Forbes
- opportunities to donate to "Dress for Success"



EARLY RESPONSE TEAM TRAINING

Central MA District

January 26, 2013

Early response Training (the UMCOR Basic ERT course) is scheduled to take place **from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on January at Carter Memorial UMC, 800 Highland Avenue - Needham, MA 02494.** There is a \$25.00 registration fee to cover the cost of Basic ERT manual, ERT T-shirt, morning refreshments, and lunch. The Rev. John Blackadar and David Stackpole, UMCOR certified trainers, will conduct this UMCOR training. 2012 brought the Sandy Hurricane to several of our conferences to the South of us and they are calling us to send ERTs to help. We need more ERTs trained. The New England Conference currently has about 1150 ERTs with UMCOR badges. Emphasis will be put on Mud-out, debris and wallboard removal. For more information, please contact the Central Mass District Office at (508) 853-1895.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

– MEETING JESUS –

The Real Jesus * The Surprising Jesus *
Challenging Savior * Source of Power *
Servant Leader



Come – and join Barbara Beekman and Debi Henry as they guide adults through the Gospels January 6 through February 10. A pre-lenten journey!

Happy New Year 2013 !!

MINISTRY OF CARING



A new day, a new dawn at Fisk Memorial! As we walk in faith together, there are times when support is needed. At Fisk, we have several caring ministries that can help. Sometimes we as individuals are on the receiving side and sometimes we are able to be on the giving side, providing that support to others. Some of these are the ministries that provide support and will be coordinated in 2013 by Sarah Gates and Debi Henry. Fisk's Ministry of Caring hopes to extend the love of Christ through a variety of programs and ministries fulfilling the reach in and reach out action of helping those in need.

- Fisk BeFrienders - A one-on-one listening ministry to help someone through a difficult time or stage of life. (Training will be provided)
- Meals Ministry - Providing meals to people going through a short-term challenge
- Prayer Shawl Needlework Group - Makes prayer shawls to remind hurting people of both God's love and our church's care. Also make other needlework items for missions. Please contact Joanne Billo or Winnie Sinclair.
- Prayer Chain - Each week, calls are made and emails sent with names in need of prayer. Names also are listed in our bulletin each week.
- Fisk Family Calling Tree - Telephone calls are going to be made each month to check in with you as to how are you doing? How is it going? Can your church family help you with anything at this time?

Volunteers for



Acolytes

January 6 – Sarah F.

January 13 - Rose C.

January 20- Sarah F.

January 27– Kelli G.

Cross bearer

Kelli G.

Ashley S.

Matt S.

Kevin S.

Liturgists

January 6 – Rev. Cheryl Gates

January 13 –Thom Townsend

January 20- Zachary Gates

January 27- Barbara Beekman



Communion Servers

January 6– Larry & Michelle Drolet

Nursery – 9:00am

January 6 – Jennifer F. & Jen G

January 13 - Jennifer F. & Jen G.

January 20–Debbi F. & Jen G.

January 27-Jennifer F. & Jen G

Nursery – 10:30am

Scott & Jennifer F.

Sarah G. & Heather O

Janis C. & Carol S.

Crystal M. & Pat P.



Feb. messenger deadline: January 24

UMYF

Isaiah 9:6 For to us a child is born to us, a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Ephesians 4:20-24 ...That, however, is not the way of life you learned when you heard about Christ and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

Greetings from your youth pastors!

To us a son is given! What a wonderful Christmas gift from God. He sent his only son that we may live and have eternal life with him. I hope that everyone had a Merry Christmas, spent some time with ones you love, and that you have had a chance to relax and recuperate. As we look forward to the New Year many of us will make resolutions and vow to change something about ourselves. I encourage you to look deep in your hearts and find what is separating you from your loving God and become a new creation in him again this New Year. Put on your new self in His image!

UMYF continues to meet regularly on Sundays after church until 2:00. All in grades 6-12 are welcome to join us! We would love to have you there!

Looking ahead, we are planning a weekend retreat February 22-24 at Camp Wanakee, a United Methodist Retreat center in Meredith, New Hampshire. If you are interested you can check out their website at www.wanakee.org. We will update you with more information soon!

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year!

Deanna and Joshua Leedy-Andreozzi - dandjla@gmail.com