

The Messenger

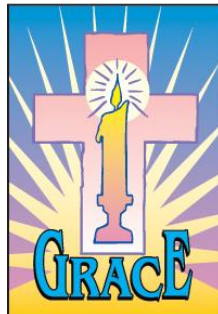
Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church - 106 Walnut St., Natick, MA 01760

January 2014

Reflections from Pastor Rick

To understand John Wesley, the founder of the Methodist movement and his most important contribution to living as a Christian, we must understand grace. What is grace? Well most simply put it is the undeserved and unexpected love of God breaking into our lives and opening us to its transforming power. That may sound a bit heavy, but in practice it is when we notice the wonders that surround us and know that they are a gift. Grace comes in many forms. Grace came to John Wesley when he was sure that he was a failure and in the midst of his despair, he suddenly felt the warmth of God's embrace and knew that he was not alone. Grace may come when we look at the beauty of nature, hold the hand of a little child, look into the eyes of a loved one, or face adversity with dignity and confidence.

God's grace is all around us. We don't have to plead for it or earn it, we simply must be open to it. In my ministry I have encountered grace in places that I did not expect and each time grace appeared before me, it came through the loving actions of someone near to me. I have written a short workbook that I have entitled "Responding to God's Grace". Through this book and the small group work that it encourages I hope you learn to open yourself to the many ways grace touches you. My dream is to engage all of you in this journey.



In order to make the largest impact on you and the life of the spirit at Fisk, we need 8 to 10 captains who will recruit folks (neighbors, friends, church folks or not) to spend six weeks in January and February reading, praying, and talking about grace as it comes into your life. We have already recruited several captains. We need a couple more. Are you game?? Call me and I will explain how it works and how powerful it can be. Even if you can't be a captain, I know that you will want to be part of one of the groups. More later.

Blessings in the New Year!

Pastor Rick

Happy New Year



Staff of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

Pastor:	Rev. Rick Black
Deacon:	Rev. Cheryl Gates
Youth Minister:	Josh & Deanna Leedy-Andreozzi
Choir Director /Organist:	Eric Mazonson
Admin. / Newsletter Editor:	Judy Bortolotti

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Church/Judy's Email: fiskumc@aol.com
Cheryl's Email: deacongates@gmail.com
Josh & Deanna's Email: DandJLA@gmail.com
Eric's Email: emazonson@verizon.net
Church Website: www.fiskumc.org

February Messenger deadline: January 27

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

Worship Service Participants and Volunteers for January



Acolytes

January 5 – Elizabeth M.

January 12 - Sarah F.

January 19- Rose C.

January 26 – Kelli G

Liturgists

January 5 – Rev. Cheryln Gates

January 12 –Joshua Leedy- Andreozzi

January 19 - Barbara Beekman

January 26- Elizabeth Coates



Communion Servers

January 5– Larry & Michelle Drolet

Greeters

January 5 - Debi Henry & Barb Beekman

January 12 – Thom & Janis Townsend

January 19 - Geoff and Sherry Del Sesto

January 26- Josh & Deanna Leedy-Andreozzi



big THANK YOU from the Missions Commission

The community of Fisk is blessed with many generous people, who are ready to answer Jesus' call to "*take care of my sheep.*" Through donations big and small, our combined efforts helped fill the Food Pantry in Natick with non-perishable food at Thanksgiving time.



and...



..has allowed us to act as "**Angels**" by providing gifts to those in need in our community at Christmas-time.

But it didn't stop there - no sooner were the presents whisked off to Natick Service Council when mittens, scarves and hats appeared on the "Angel/Mitten" tree, for delivery this month to Maine for those in need. *There is still time to help! We are **still** collecting gloves, hats and scarves to put on our tree, which is located in the back of the Sanctuary.*



Thank you to all who have generously donated!



Coats for Kids Drive – NOW thru Jan. 11th

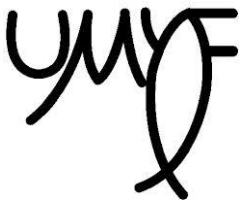
Please bring in your unwanted coats, any size, in good condition and we will deliver the coats to Anton's Cleaners. Anton's cleans these coats and distributes them to needy organizations throughout Massachusetts. Coats can be from infant size through adults. **Please** -no big stains, rips, tears or broken zippers. Think about a coat you would give to a friend. Coat collection bin is located outside the church office.

Our goal is to collect 50+ coats before January 11th.

Can you please help us to meet our goal?

Update on Habitat for Humanity Wayland project:

Fisk Church Missions Commission has done some fundraising over the past year to be able to participate in a Build Day at the site. The project has moved forward with the selection of families in a lottery held on December 19th. The foundation blocks donated by individuals and organizations is scheduled to be installed at 11 am on Saturday, January 11th. Anyone who purchased a foundation block is welcome to join the ceremony on January 11th. There will also be the opportunity to meet the families at the ceremony. Please call the church office if you would like to attend, or speak with Heather Oluwole or Michelle Drolet. Build days for the site will begin in February. Fisk has requested a date in April, we will let you know the exact date as soon as possible. Thank you for your support in this local mission project.



January, 2014

First, Josh and I would like to wish you a belated Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! We hope this finds you well and that you were able to find some time during what can be a hectic season to relax and enjoy time with your family and friends.

Sunday School continues to meet at 9:20 a.m. on Sunday mornings. We have moved into our new room and are still using the Learning in Christ (LinC) curriculum. The numbers in attendance at our Friday Gym Night are growing each month and we have made a connection with Stephanie and Dave Fair from the MetroWest Bridge Church through that. They have been attending and bringing some youth with them! We are looking for other ways to collaborate with them.

Below you will find some upcoming dates. Please mark your calendars and consider joining us. We hope to see you all soon!

Blessings,

Deanna and Joshua Leedy-Andreozzi

DandJLA@gmail.com

Dates to Remember

Sunday, January 5 - Sunday School 9:20 Youth Group 12-2
Sunday, January 12 - Sunday School 9:20 Youth Group 12-2
Sunday, January 19 - Sunday School 9:20 Youth Group 12-2
Sunday, January 26 - Youth Group Fun Event (TBD- Stay tuned!)
Friday, January 31 - Open Gym Night - 7-10 p.m.

Winter Retreat - Please save the date now!!

Friday, February 14 - Sunday, February 16

We will leave after school on Friday and plan to return in the afternoon on Sunday. This is the first weekend of February vacation.

United Methodist Women

Our Purpose

The organization of United Methodist Women shall be a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.

Sunday, January 12, 2014

**Installation of our officers for the year 2014
will take place during the worship service.**

(United Methodist Men officers will also be installed).

Following the service the women are hosting a Luncheon for all women who have an interest in the mission of the United Methodist Women. We will have a short program about our history and how it affects us today.

All women are welcome!

Faith • Hope • Love in Action

unitedmethodistwomen.org

**Hannah Circle meets on the second Tuesday at noon-contact Linnea Fisher*

**Susanna Circle meets on the second Wednesday at 7:30pm - contact Marcia Hoyt*

**Prayer Shawl Group meets Wednesdays at 10:00 am at Fisk*

United Methodist Women is the largest denominational faith organization for women with approximately 800,000 members whose mission is fostering spiritual growth, developing leaders and advocating for justice. Come and find out why!

One Day Mission U

Saturday March 8, 2014

Fisk Memorial United Methodist

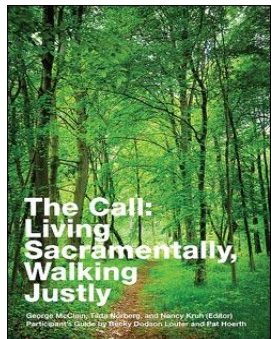
This is open to all (men, women and youth) interested in a day of fellowship and learning ...with lunch included. All for \$20.00!
(some scholarship money is available)

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

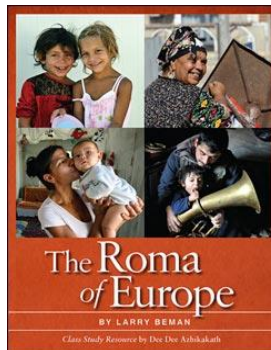
OPTION #2 **The Call: Living Sacramentally, Walking Justly** with Wanda Santos-Perez

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 1st session of class (closing with a lunch Blessing)
12:15 Lunch served
1:00 2nd session of class
2:45 Closing



Questions: Marcia Hoyt
508-655-0077
marciahoyt@aol.com



Prayer Points

- **Military** Matt Scranton – Navy Reserve Medical Training in Texas. Please pray for all of our service men and women serving to keep all of us safe as well as their families.
- **Missionaries** Dr. Belinda Forbes, serving Christ in Nicaragua. Mat & Kayle Pelletier, serving in Zimbabwe.
- **Our Church Staff** Rev. Rick Black, Rev. Cheryl Gates, Deanna & Joshua Leedy-Andreozzi, Eric Mazonson, and Judy Bortolotti.

PRAYER CHAIN! Would you like to be a folded hand open heart link mid-week on Fisk's prayer chain? Please let Sarah Gates or Debi Henry know so that your name can be added to our call list for Wednesday or Thursday.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING is February 2, 2014! Bring in a can or box of soup for the Natick Food Pantry and "noisy change" for a soup bowl and stay for homemade soup during Fellowship time following worship! OK?

***Changing Calendar – Unchanging God!
May God's Grace Be Upon You in 2014!
Happy New Year!***

Registration forms on the Bulletin Board near the Nursery

New Year's Resolutions

As you make plans for the New Year and attempt to do some things differently...add recycling to your list! Fisk offers you many options to recycle and help others at the same time. A win - win !

Did you know Fisk:



1. **Collects aluminum beverage cans and plastic redeemable bottles?** There is a barrel in the closet (near the Men's Room) marked Bottles and Cans. The funds from redeeming these goes to the Youth Program.

2. Before you toss your aluminum cans in the barrel bend off the **pull tabs** and put them in the container in the kitchen...they go to the Shriner's Burn Hospital for equipment etc.



3. Also in the kitchen is a container for **Labels for Education—from Campbell Soups** and many other products. These go to Cooper Community Center for recreational and educational supplies.



4. **Boxtops for Education** also...helps the schools supply classrooms with extra books etc.



5. **Non-perishable foods etc.** for the Natick Food Pantry. (also need personal products i.e. soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste etc.) They can be left in the wooden box near the office.

6. **Clothes**-currently we are collecting coats...bring in any unwanted coats in good condition. In April you can begin again to bring in good, clean, serviceable clothing for the United Methodist Economic Ministry in Maine...not until April 1. ☺



Something new! Can you help?

Fisk has a new opportunity to welcome others into our building, be hospitable, and to do some fundraising at the same time!

The Charles River Rotary Club of Natick/Wellesley will begin meeting in our church building January 2 and we will be serving them breakfast—weekly on Thursday mornings.

This is a new opportunity and hopefully with the help of many of you will be a lasting, successful endeavor. The Rotary Club meets at 7:30am for a breakfast and their meeting and they are generally gone by 9:00am. (There are currently about 12 members and they pay for their breakfast whether or not they are in attendance. They pay \$12.00 each per week. So the income – before expenses is \$144.00 weekly. So there is a potential to earn up to \$5000.00 annually.)



What do we need to do?

1. Set-up room 9 to serve 12-15 people
2. Provide a full breakfast in addition to having cereal, fruit, coffee and juice available.
3. We need to have 5 teams of 3 people to agree to do one Thursday a month. Yes, that is 15 people!
4. Contributions of fresh muffins, coffee cake, breads
5. Be at church in time to be **ready to serve at 7:30am.**
6. Clean-up and go about your day...all by 9:00am.

Are you available 10-12 times during the year? Could you at least try one Thursday in January or February? I have two solid teams and others waiting to pair up with someone? Contact Marcia Hoyt 655-0077

Special Charge Conference

There will be a Special Charge Conference to approve the report of the Lay Leadership (Nominations Committee) following Worship Service on Sunday, January 12th.



Sunday School Curriculum

Preschool to Grade 5

We will be studying the life of Jesus this winter season.

We will be focusing on Luke 2: 52

“Jesus matured in wisdom and years,
and in favor with God and with people.”

Watch for Grades 2-5 to recite the 23rd Psalm and to sign it
during church service.

Preschool to Grade 1 is happily meeting in their new
classroom - the old youth room.

Our youth are meeting in what was the library.

Grades 6-12 continue to use a curriculum called LinC. It
combines current events and biblical truths. Go online and
visit cokesbury.com to see a sample of what is being covered.



Watch for opportunities to exercise your spirit, mind,
and body.

Where ???? Right here at Fisk and beyond.

Ideas ? Needs? Dreams?

See Susan Carney and we can devise a plan to educate .

THE PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY

New Time

Tuesdays at 4:30 in Ogle Parlor

60 minutes in length

We follow the lectionary which is then used in the service.

Forgot your Bible --- we will have plenty there.

Study God's word with Pastor Rick.

Bring a friend.



Intercessory Prayer Class

Rev. Rolland French

Room 9

We have started this workbook series but you can jump in
anytime

and we hope that you will.

Grab a cup of coffee in the hall and come on in.

What a great way to learn about intercessory prayer –
together.

SUBSTITUTES NEEDED

Our Sunday School teachers have the best attendance but a
few times a year , we need a sub. Could I put you on a list ?

Thanks in advance

Susan Carney, Education