

The Messenger

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

June 2012

Reflections from Pastor Mark

No matter what we say or do, this is what we think of you. Amen.
(A Pastor's prayer over the Sunday offering)

I'd like to talk to you about faith – yours, mine, ours – in Jesus Christ. It is going to sound like I am talking about money but, in fact, I am not. Jesus said, “*I am the way, and the truth, and the life.*” Do you believe that? And by believing, I do not mean nodding your head as the creed is read on Sunday morning. No. What I mean is “*Do you believe in Jesus with your whole life?*” Has Jesus become *your way*? *Your truth*? *Your life*?

An accurate gauge of what people actually believe is how they spend their resources of time, energy, and money. We probably don't even mind being preached to regarding time and energy – but when it comes to money: *Whoa!* Now the preacher's started meddling! No matter: Let's meddle a little bit. Here follow five favorite fables held dear by (some) church members:

All they ever talk about in church is money.

What I give is just between me and God.

The church spends too much.

My little offering doesn't make any difference.

Nobody tithes anymore.

Each of the above is demonstrably false. Think about it for a moment. Can you spot the mistakes?

Here are my responses (in agreement, by the way, with some very wise stewardship gurus):

All they ever talk about in church is money.

(No we don't – except for some TV ministries. Ministers are very timid about money talk – unlike Jesus who talked about money much of the time. Check it out in the Gospels.)

What I give is just between me and God.

(No it isn't. The matter is certainly a very *personal* one. However, what you give to the mission and ministry of the church is between you, God, your fellow members, and every person served by your gifts.)

The church spends too much.

(No we don't. In fact, our church needs to spend more because there is so much more that we need to accomplish in the name of Jesus Christ. We do probably spend more than we have – but this is a *giving problem* rather than a spending one.)

My little offering doesn't make any difference.

(Your offering, large or small, matters a great deal! Most stewardship gifts are on the smaller side. Many small gifts – plus some larger ones – accomplish the church's mission.)

Nobody tithes anymore.

(Yes, many Christians do tithe – give 10% of their income. And in growing, passionate-for-mission churches, a majority of members are tithing.)

That's a lot of “money talk” – but as I said before, it is not really money we are talking about but faithfulness; *we are thinking about being faithful with all that we have and all that we are.* Christ our Savior deserves that kind of faithfulness from you and from me.

Fisk Memorial is a wonderful church with wonderful members. I admire your enthusiasm, your love for one another and passion for the mission of Christ's church. You have treated me with great kindness. But I have noticed that there are two things our church is particularly shy of: *Presence and resources for ministry.* Our pews *should* be – *could* be full. . . and likewise our offering plates. What's stopping us?



I am praying, in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord, for great things at Fisk Memorial.

Peace and joy,
Pastor Mark

We Don't Slow Down !!!

Just because school is out and the weather gets hot, ... the Fisk community is not slowing down. In addition to Sunday Worship every Sunday morning at 10:30am and Adult Sunday School at 9:10am, there are activities for all.

Please take a look at these various activities and join in. Check our new website for details: www.fiskumc.org

- All Church Picnic: June 10th
- Youth Mission Trip to NJ: June 24-30
- Monday nights on the Common: June 25 thru Aug 27
- Parade float: July 4th (prep on July 3rd)
- Mid-week Bible study: July & August
- Women;s Weekend Away--Maine July 20-22
- Hosting our Family Promise guests: July 22 thru Aug 4
- Swim & cookout nights at the Hoyts: One night in July.....
..... one in August
- Vacation Bible School: August 20 thru 24



Annual Church Picnic - Bible Quiz – Volleyball - Crafts

Sunday, June 10

- 11:30 a.m. Grab a drink, find a seat, and get ready for the Bible Quiz!
- 11:45 a.m. Annual Bible Quiz – Men vs. Women
- 12:15 p.m. Share some great food with your church family!
- 1:15 p.m. Adults vs. Youth Volleyball Game
Crafts/Games for “kids”

We hope to see you there! Volunteer sign-up lists are located on the Evangelism ministry bulletin board in the hallway outside the sanctuary and library.

Worship Service Participants and Nursery Volunteers for



Greeters:

- June 3– Joshua & Deanna Leedy-Andreozzi
- June 10 – Joshua & Deanna Leedy-Andreozzi
- June 17 – Nancy Swan & Elizabeth Coates
- June 24– The Altar Guild –Lois, Blanche, Linnea

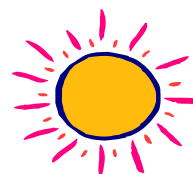
Acolytes

- June 3– Rose C.
- June 10 – Kelli G.
- June 17 – Sarah F.
- June 24– Rose C.

Cross Bearer

- Matt Sc.
- Ashley S.
- Will S.
- Matt S.

Liturgists



- June 3– Deanna Leedy-Andreozzi
- June 10 – Elizabeth Coates
- June 17 – Zachary Gates
- June 24– Debi Henry

Communion Servers

- June 3- Greg & Lauren Dickenson

Nursery 9:00am

- June 3– Debbie F & Jen G.
- June 10 –Jennifer F. & Jen G.
- June 17 – Debbie F.Jen G.
- June 24– Jennifer F. & Jen G.



Nursery Workers

Nursery 10:30

- Scott & Jennifer F.
- Natasha M & Heather O.
- Janis C. & Carol S.
- Crystal M & Pat P.

Summer messenger Deadline: June 22

Finance Update – June 2012



Our stewardship of God's gifts to us is on "Plan", and on "Budget" after four months of the year. The faithful support of you the congregation continues to be a blessing, and we are spending wisely: Our financial update:

- Your financial support is on Budget through April – thank you,
- We are spending at, or less than our budgeted expenses, but at a cost to our greater commitments.
- We continue to pray for improvements in our financial position.

We prayerfully entered the year, and our Stewardship Plan, with the requirement to spend less, and achieve less. Our Plan still requires us to "borrow" from our resources in order to fund all of our planned ministries in 2012. And those ministries were cut back due to our budget constraints. Our faith, and our stewardship, requires us to do more. We should not be complacent. We should act on the many exciting opportunities we are creating here at Fisk, through missions, outreach, and caring for others. We all need to answer God's call to do more.

The ministries of Fisk touch so many people in so many ways. Those ministries, as always, depend upon the financial support of each and every one of us. 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 2012.

Members of Finance Committee, which includes representatives from other committees at Fisk:

Michael Bruns (Chair), Pastor Mark Goad, Debi Henry (Lay Leader), Thom Townsend (Chair-Admin Board), David Cail (Treasurer), Sherry Culver (Financial Secretary), Tom Carney (Trustees), Ernest Acquah-Harrison (SPRC), Greg Dickinson, Larry Drolet, Jen Garrant, Dave Longworth.

Windows, Lights, and Doors



A reminder that when you open windows and doors or turn on lights at the church, YOU are in charge of closing them. If you leave the area and will not be coming back, please ask someone else to shut off, close or lock for you.

If YOU do not take of care it- *it does NOT get done.* A drive -by of the church at night boasts open doors, lights, and windows.

Thank you everyone for taking this gentle reminder to heart.

----Tom Carney, Trustees

Vacation Bible School

Dates: August 20- 24



Theme: Skywith God everything is Possible!

Watch the Education Bulletin Board for your opportunity to help out.

This curriculum is by the same folks who have made the last few years' programs and they also developed Night in Bethlehem.....So we know it will be great !!!!

Questions? See Susan Carney

The Way of the Child

I spent a Saturday at Rolling Ridge with other Christian woman studying this curriculum for the day. We were blessed with a beautiful day , good fellowship, and a program that was more than worthwhile.

The education committee will be reviewing this experiential program and deciding if it is something that we could weave into the informational curriculum that we have used for years.

This curriculum was developed by a woman who works in Nashville with the Upper Room staff and comes highly recommended. I felt that I owed it to our children to investigate and I am glad that I did.

-Susan Carney-

Sunday School will end for the children on the second Sunday in June.

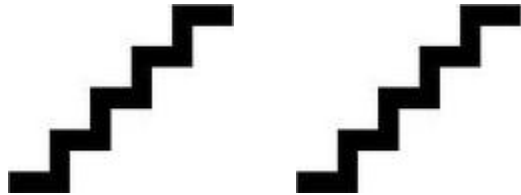
Step-Up Kids: Grades 3 - 5

Pop-Up Kids: Pre-K to Grade 2

Sunday, June 24, 2012

12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Bring a change of clothes that you don't mind "getting wet," parent(s), towel, and a box of crackers!



**Mystery Picnic & Silly String
Water Interaction**

Laity Lines From Our Lay Leader

"Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase."



Twenty Questions! Mary, the mother of Jesus, sang a song of praise to God. Where was she when she spontaneously burst into song magnifying God? This popular Christmas hymn penned by Charles Wesley ends with "Glory to the new born King!" The tune to this hymn was composed by Felix Mendelssohn, a German composer. Which hymn is this? "Jesus thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; Visit us with thy salvation; enter every trembling heart." From which hymn composed by Charles Wesley do these two lines come from? What does "Kum Ba yah" mean? Were you in Sunday School last week? What is the name of John Wesley's mother? What is the name of the first college established by Methodist Church? What game claims to "tie you up in knots?" What is Pastor Mark's middle name? How many stained glass windows are in the sanctuary? Who was the liturgist last Sunday? What did you have for breakfast? Did you watch television last night? Will you be in worship this coming Sunday? What day of the week will December 25, 2012 be on? Would you like to help people with their name tags on a Sunday in June? The church picnic is June 10. Are you coming? Are you on Twitter? Can you say your telephone number out loud with your eyes shut? Do you *really know* how much God loves you?

Save The Dates! Central Mass District Lay Speaking Classes will be held on Saturday's in September, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., at First UMC in Marlborough. On September 15, 22 and 29, the Basic, Youth Basic, and Advanced Classes – Accountable Discipleship and Living Our Beliefs – The United Methodist Way are the classes being offered.



Starbucks! For pick-ups on Sunday's in June, July and August, the sign-up sheet is located in the church office. Thank you to those who did the May pick up and deliveries.

***God's Blessings, My Prayers,
Debi Henry***

Helping our Homeless Neighbors:

Join us as we host families from-
Family Promise Metrowest (formerly MIHN)
between July 22-August 5

*Do you have a few hours to spare?
Want to make a difference in someone's life?*

Helping out is easy and there's a way for everyone to contribute.

You can:

- Prepare part of a dinner
- Serve dinner and eat with guests
- Chat with adults or play with kids
- Sleep overnight at Fisk
- Help with set-up
- Fix a Saturday breakfast
- Shop for groceries



To sign up-

Contact Debbie Friscino at fris@rcn.com

Sign-up on a Sunday morning

Watch for an email with the link to our
NEW ONLINE schedule.

Family Promise Metrowest (formerly MIHN)

We will host up to four families (max of 14 people) from just after 5pm until 7a the next day. Each of these families is in transition between homes and is working with staff at Family Promise to get back on their feet. Many have jobs or are in school, others are looking for work. In all cases, they have children who need some help with food and a place to sleep!

How can you help?

DINNER PROVIDERS

Prepare part -or all- of a dinner for our guests. Food needs to arrive at Fisk by 5:00 pm each day so that dinner is served at 5:30pm. Dinner hosts join families for dinner then stay to clean up afterward.

EVENING HOSTS

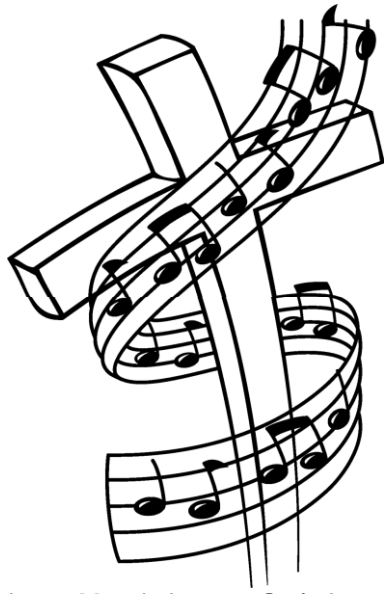
Evening hosts arrive as dinner is finishing (around 6:30p) socialize with guests, play games, lead a children's activity, welcome newcomers and assist parents with children's needs. They leave when overnight hosts arrive at 8:30 p.

OVERNIGHT HOSTS

Two hosts arrive at approximately 8:30 pm to sleep overnight at Fisk. Overnight hosts may spend evening time with guests and their children and are available in case of any emergency. These hosts also provide set-up/clean-up for a simple breakfast and see the guests onto their van pick-up at 6:45am.

BREAKFAST PREPARERS (Saturday only)

The Saturday breakfast is a full breakfast for families and is a relaxed and social time. Breakfast is usually around 7:30 am.



Choir - Organist - Musicians - Soloists - THANK YOU!

United Methodist Men



Come for fellowship & food
at Gary Hoyt's house
8 Bacon St, Natick
June 12 at 6:00PM

Bring your own meat to grill.
Other dishes and cold drinks provided!

Peace with Justice Sunday - June 3

Our Peace with Justice Sunday offering on Sunday, June 3rd aids disciples, young and old, who are indeed changing lives and changing the world, inspired by Christ's gospel of love and liberation.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2012 GRADUATES!!!!

Congratulations to Lauren Dickenson who graduated from Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine.

Congratulations to Jacquelyn Drolet, who is graduating from Natick High and will be attending Liberty University in Virginia.

Congratulations to Tim Naser, who is graduating from Natick High School and will be attending the University of New Hampshire.

Congratulations to Elizabeth Bruns, who is graduating from Natick High and will be attending Colorado State University, Honors Program.

Congratulations to Miriam Crichlow who is graduating from Ursuline Academy and will attend Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, OH majoring in Computer Engineering.

Congratulations to Ashley Moraghan, who is graduating from Bellingham High School and will be attending Worcester State University majoring in Communications.

United Methodist Women

The UMW want to thank everyone who helped make the May 12 yard sale a success. We raised over \$800 for mission projects that will help women and children locally and around the world. And, if you did not get your donations to the yard sale there will be another on October 13th.

We will not be having a meeting in June, but we will be having a UMW week-end at Marcia Hoyt's in Maine, July 20-22nd. Please let Marcia Hoyt or Janis Cail know if you will be coming.

There will be a UMW Exec Board Planning Meeting on Monday, June 25th at 7 PM.

Youth Mission Trip

Bloomfield, New Jersey

June 24-30



The mission trip is fast approaching and final preparations are in place. As many of you know we will be heading to Bloomfield, New Jersey as part of the United Methodist Action Reach-Out Mission by Youth or UMARMY. As part of this week we will be staying in a host church and heading out into the community to do work for people who cannot afford it on their own or are physically unable to do it themselves. Time will be spent in worship and fellowship with other youth on the trip but also the families and people in the community of Bloomfield.

On behalf of the 10 youth and 5 adults that will be heading to Bloomfield at the end of June we would like to say thank you. We are truly blessed to be a part of such a supportive and loving church community. The response of prayer, enthusiasm, and financial support has been remarkable and we are truly thankful for what this congregation, our families, and our friends have done to support us. Please continue to keep us in prayer and look for last minute needs as we prepare to head out.

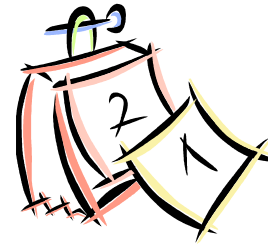
Thank you and God Bless!

Deanna, Josh, Thom, Carol, Tom,
Abby, Will, Miriam, Olivia, Emmanuel, Matt, Kevin,
Eudic, Joey, Kelli

Introducing The new Fisk Memorial UMC Website!

www.fiskumc.org

What you'll find on the website:



- ~Information about our church
- ~Calendar of events
- ~Message about ministry at Fisk
- ~Sermons to listen to
- ~the Messenger
- ~UMC Links and resources

What's next - We are planning a page just for visitors, more information about our staff and also a feedback area. The new website has lots of space for photos, video, and blogs.



WE'RE ON
FACEBOOK!

And by the way - Fisk Memorial UMC is also on Facebook. Check out our page today! Are you interested in helping? Do you like to take video? Could you help with recording the sermons? Or do you take pictures? Talk with us about the possibilities.

Comments and feedback about the new site? What do you want to see on the site? What would you find useful? Contact Sherry Culver, sherrycd@comcast.net, 508-651-1876

Focusing on Fisk's Future



As you have seen in previous editions of the Messenger, a large group from Fisk has met now four times to look at what we do well and what we could be doing better in our Service to God here at Fisk. Action items were determined and many of these initiatives are now underway. Here is some of what is going on:

1. An upgrade of our road signs around the town
2. A new church brochure and business cards for all
3. An increased presence on Natick cable TV calendar of events
4. Improved visual appearance of our Prayer chapel
5. Enhanced focus on greeting and welcoming at our Sunday Worship hour
6. Reaching out to friends and members that we have not seen for awhile
7. A totally redesigned Web page
8. ...and more to come

Many thanks to all who have participated with their ideas and efforts. To learn more about how you might be able to join one of these activities, or to suggest something additional, please contact either Marcia Hoyt (chair of COM), Zachary Gates, (chair of Evangelism) or Thom Townsend (chair of Admin Board).