

The Messenger

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

June 2013

Reflections from Pastor Mark

Bits and Pieces. . .

Thanks for your prayers for our safe travels. Our vacation was an anniversary trip, taken with another couple who are also celebrating their wedding anniversary, and made even more memorable by our traveling to the southwest, an area I'd never visited. I'd seen deserts before but not the beautiful "Painted Desert"; nor had I visited Santa Fe or Albuquerque, or seen the ancient (and amazing!) cliff dwellings in Mesa Verde.

We offer our prayers for the Oklahomans who lives were devastated or lost in the May 18th tornado. I have been in two very large tornados and can say it is not the kind of excitement one wants to experience on a regular basis. May God be present to them as they rebuild – and may they receive the support they need from our government and the community of faith.

Annual Conference is just a few weeks away (June 12-15). Please keep *your* New England Conference in prayer as we clergy and lay members do our work.

And now for something really different. . . Summer at Fisk needs some livening up! Our Council on Ministries has endorsed a plan for an "alternative-style and schedule" for worship during the months of July and August. *Beginning on Sunday, July 7*, worship will begin at 9:30 am and will be gathered in locations other than the sanctuary

(including, we expect, rooms 8/9, Whipple Hall and outdoors). The style of worship will be casual, interactive and inspirational. We will sing a lot of music and dig into a couple of scriptural themes – to be announced in June – that will challenge and energize. Children will be invited to participate in a children's program during worship and nursery care will be provided. And, oh yes, there will be food! **Yes, it is going to be different – but it's also going to be great! You'll want to be a part of this!!**

And a good word from scripture:

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. . . . The wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. – James 3:13-14, 17-18

God bless you, our church, and all
whom we are called to serve.

Pastor Mark

Staff of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

Pastor:	Rev. Mark Goad
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Deacon:	Rev. Cheryl Gates
Youth Ministers:	Joshua & Deanna Leedy-Andreozzi
Choir Director /Organist:	Eric Mazonson

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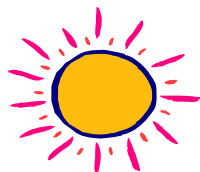
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Worship Service Participants and Nursery Volunteers for



Greeters:

June 2 - The Riordan Family
June 9 - Elizabeth Coates and Nancy Parece
June 16 - Marilyn Carr and Pat Price
June 23 - Bingxin Xu and Tian Zhang
June 30 - Carol Drew and Diane O'Loughlin



Liturgists

June 2 - Cheryl Gates
June 9 - Matt Scranton
June 16 - Zachary Gates
June 23 - Marilyn Carr
June 30 - Mark Owen



Communion Servers

June 3 - Debbie Friscino & Elizabeth Coates



Nursery 10:30

June 2 - Jen O'Brien
June 9 - Janis Cail
June 16 - Crystal Mayo
June 23 - Sarah Gates
June 30 - Jennifer French

Coffee Hour Hosts

June 2 - Cookout for Missions
June 9 - Bing Xu and Tian Zhang
June 16 - Pat Price
June 23 - Debi Henry
June 30 - Julia Jaco



Family Promise Metrowest Update:

As I think about our upcoming host weeks, I naturally wonder about families we got to know in previous years.

Remember Mary and Steve? According to the FP 2012 annual report, Mary is happy to report that they are living in the same house they moved into when they left FP in 2009. Sarah is working and engaged, James and Mark are both in college and Mary and Steve are both working.

Remember Eve and Jami? Eve is working and living in Ashland, has purchased a car and, proudly, has not smoked since January 21st! She is a Notary and is taking her licensing exam soon. **"If it weren't for Family Promise, I would not have broken the cycle of poverty and instability I was in. I'm really happy now"** she writes.

July 21-August 4, 2013

Your involvement **DOES** make a difference in the lives of families in our community. Sign up to help this summer as we again **HOST** up to four families for two weeks.

Volunteer to

- prepare some, or all, of a dinner
- host family time after dinner
- stay overnight at Fisk
- provide breakfast on a Saturday morning
- shop for groceries
- set up or take down rooms



Sign up online at

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheet/ccc?key=0AqKd63lKWCh-dHEXtThubDN4bHQ3WfVaam5Pc1pudEE#gid=0>

or contact Debbie Friscino at fris@rcn.com

Summer messenger Deadline: June 22

Annual Conference: Gordon College is once again the site of this year's Annual Conference. Running from June 12 through June 15, 2013, clergy and laity from all of the churches in New England will gather for business and committee reports, inspiring worship and ministry education. I will once again be attending conference as Fisk's Lay Member.

Ingathering Opportunities at Annual Conference



UMCOR – Health kits (1 comb, 1 washcloth, 1 hand towel, 1 bar of soap, 1 toothbrush, 6 band-aids, 1 nail clipper in a gallon plastic bag.) Completed kits or individual items are needed.

Fabric and sewing supplies for **Nicaragua**



Cell phones for **Safe Havens** – the phones are reprogrammed for emergency use by victims of domestic violence

Eyeglasses for the **Haitian Methodist Church**



And ... an Ingathering of Quilts, Blankets, and Prayer Shawls:



Consider contributing to these important ingathering opportunities at conference this year. Drop health kits items in Ogle Parlor and other items in the church office for delivery to conference. Thanks!

Questions – Ask Sherry Culver, Lay Member



A Celebration! Fisk Church Walkers raised over \$2300 for Relay for Life! Thanks to those of you who sponsored our team of walkers, stopped by the field on Relay Day and supported our

survivors. We are making a difference in our community and in the lives of those impacted by cancer.



The United Methodist Woman

Are Goin' on a Cruise!– We have planned a River Cruise on the Concord River which includes lunch. The trip will pass the homes and places known for the authors who resided and worked in the area. Tickets are \$25.00 (including lunch) **Date is June 8th**. See Janis Cail for more info.

Walkers are needed...



Great opportunity to Salute our Country!

Good exercise!

Spread the WORD and promote Fisk.

The long-standing tradition of Natick's Fourth of July Parade is alive and well (after thoughts of cancelling it) and Fisk will be distributing bracelets to children along the route and carrying a Fisk Church banner.

Are you available to WALK FOR FISK? Need a minimum of 4 people, but the more the better and then we could split the route. Some could walk part of the route and then "jump out" while replacements "jump in."

This is an opportunity to tell the community we care and are here "on the hill" *Praising God*. Older children, youth and adults welcome. Parade begins at the Building 19 parking lot and finishes beyond the Natick Common-by St. Patrick's Church.

Please call Marcia Hoyt, Zachary Gates or the church office if you are interested.

Dinners for 7

Twenty-four Fisk people have signed up to share fellowship time and dinner together once a month. These groups are a mix of singles and couples and a variety of ages. These times have been an opportunity to get to know others in a more relaxed setting. The three groups have met during April and May. We will all gather together on June 14 for a Cookout.

In the fall.....why don't you consider joining us,
as we re-shuffle the names and form new groups?
Call Marcia Hoyt if you have questions?

Help Wanted! Children's Ministry ***Step-Up Kids and Pop-Up Kids***

Adult Christian leadership is needed for Fisk's two youngest fellowship groups. Currently, our Step-Up Kids (Grades 3 - 5) and Pop-Up Kids (Pre-K - Grade 2) meet once a month - September to June. Mission projects, fellowship, events have been a part of this program. Is God calling you to serve this ministry? Please contact Deanna Leedy-Andreozzi, Marcia Hoyt, Jim Phillips or Janis Townsend to discuss.

VBS Canceled



Regretfully, a decision has been made
to cancel VBS this Summer.
We hope to resume our VBS program next year!



Many Thanks

To everyone who helped with Sunday School this year.... I hope you were blessed as much as you blessed our children and adults as well. It has been my pleasure to have singing time with the children and to hear even our youngest talk about the Holy Spirit is just amazing. I cannot stress enough the gift that church school is. Thank you and may the seeds that you have planted continue to grow and flourish.

With that in mind, I am looking for folks who feel called to teach next year. These are the projected classes and enrollment as it stands now:

Ages 2,3, and 4 = Four children
Kindergarten – Grade 2 = 5 or 6 Students
Grades 3 -5 = 7 Students
Jr. High and High School
Adult Classes

Please prayerfully consider this 45 minutes Sunday morning commitment knowing that I am always there to support you. We always have substitutes and each class is covered by two adults.

Sign up will appear shortly.

See Susan Carney

Last Day of Sunday School ***is June 16th***

This will also be the day that we recognize our
high school and college graduates.
Let's end the year with everyone in attendance!



Education Notes for the Summer

Looking forward to July and August - we plan to offer something different for our children ages 3 through finishing Grade 3: Halfway through the service, the children will be taken to another room for a time of story, song, and lesson. This will be different each week and hopefully something that the children will look forward to. This will require a leader and a helper... on a rotating basis. If you feel called to help in this area, please let me know. We want this to be successful but also NOT with the same folks each week as we want people to experience the different type of worship that is being planned for the summer.

ALSO

- The Tuesday morning @ 10:30 Bible Study with Pastor Mark will be continuing during June. We are just wrapping up the Book of James and will be choosing a new book. Please join us in Ogle Parlor.
- Keep an eye on our website for other educational opportunities.
- Bible Study on Wednesday nights continues at the home of Sarah and Zachary Gates.

**May God bless us all as we study His word
and fellowship in His name!**

Upcoming Events for the Youth Group

June 2 -Missions Picnic and Youth Group 12-2

June 9 -Youth Group 12-2

**June 15- end of the year youth group pool party
at the Hoyt's. Time TBD**

Youth Group will then resume in September.

Update on Our Plan for a Healthy Fisk Church, Lay Leader Dorothy Phillips

Goal: To position Fisk Church to be a vital, sustainable, spirit-led, welcoming and healthy church that serves its members, the community, and global missions.

The May Messenger included an article on our Plan for a Healthy Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church. I am pleased to report that you, the members and friends of Fisk, are embracing this plan.

We are opening our doors to the community for events; the MetroWest Choral Artists and Walnut Hill High school concerts brought new faces up the hill, letting people know that we are here. On the last day of May the community will be invited for our family night of fun and comedy. We went to the community with a tent and participants at Relay for Life (cancer research fundraiser) and with a booth at the Natick Farmer's Market, stressing Fisk presence as a supportive faith-based church.

This edition of the Messenger brings you details for casual and contemporary worship services which are being planned for the summer. Phase 1 of the Healthy Church Plan focuses on our youngest family members. We are proud to report that the nursery now has one highly qualified paid staff on Sunday mornings (9AM-12Noon); a second paid person should be on board in the fall of 2013.

In essence, we are planning, working and praying for those who have not yet confessed a belief in Christ and Christians without a church home to become a part of our family. Our plan is to have programs and services at Fisk that attracts and retains them.

If so called, get involved. Above all keep praying that by our work and God's grace we will reach our goal in 2015 for Fisk to be a healthy church.

Philippians 3:13-14 (From the apostle Paul):

¹³ Brothers and sisters, I know that I have not yet reached that goal, but there is one thing I always do. Forgetting the past and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I keep trying to reach the goal and get the prize for which God called me through Christ to the life above.

Finance Update – June 2013



How are we doing? And how are you doing?

Many great things are happening at Fisk! Those new ideas, and ministries, and strategies depend directly upon the financial support of each and every one of us: our time, our talents, our gifts, and our financial resources. How are YOU doing in supporting God's work? Have you reviewed your quarterly statement of contributions? Are you able to give back your committed portion of God's gifts to you? Are you perhaps able to consider increasing those gifts to support HIS work? If you are not currently doing so, are you perhaps able to begin supporting HIS work?

How are WE` doing? In general, the faithful support of you the congregation has been a blessing in the four months of the year, through April, and we must continue to do more. Our financial update:

- Your financial support is within 5% of our Budget through April – thank you.
- We are spending less than our budgeted expenses,
- We pray for continued improvements in our financial position.

The ministries of Fisk touch so many people in so many ways. We as a congregation provide important ministries to individuals and families at Fisk, to our community, to New England, and to the world in need.

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 2013.

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

Michael Bruns (Chair), Pastor Mark Goad, Dorothy Phillips (Lay Leader), Thom Townsend (Chair-Admin Board), David Cail (Treasurer), Sherry Culver (Financial Secretary), Geoff DelSesto (Trustees), Tom Currie (SPRC), Larry Drolet, Jen Garrant.



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2013 GRADUATES!!!!

Congratulations to Rachel Bruns, who graduated from George Mason University cum laude with a B.A. in Global Affairs, minor in Women and Gender Studies as an Honors College student in May. She will be joining Deloitte Consulting LLP federal practice as a Business Technology Analyst in the Fall 2013.

Congratulations to Matt Scranton, who is graduating from Framingham High School. In August, he will join the U.S. Navy reserves and will spend the year in training. After training, He will attend U Mass Boston in the fall of 2014.

Congratulations to Abigail Stinson who is graduating from Lexington Christian Academy and will attend Wellesley College in the fall.

Congratulations to Oluwakolade (Kolade) Elijah Oluwole. who is graduating from Natick High School and entering Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston this fall. He is majoring in Mechanical Engineering.

Congratulations to Deanna Biddy who is graduating from Dover/ Sherborn High, and is attending Wheaton College in the fall.

Congratulations to Brett Townsend who is receiving his PhD in Pure Mathematics from Wesleyan University in CT, and has accepted a position on the faculty of Salem (MA) State University.

Congratulations to Gary & Marcia Hoyt's grandson, Matt Naser who is graduating from Natick High School. Son of Barbara and Will Naser. He will be attending UNH majoring in Education and Special Education.

Congratulations to 2 of Nancy Parece's grandchildren:

Jamie Parece, who graduated with honors from Temple University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Kinesiology.

Michael Hammett, who graduated with honors from Fitchburg State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration.

Junior Graduates:

Congratulations to Rose Currie, who is graduating from Elementary School, and is going into Middle School

Congratulations to Gabriella Bortolotti who is graduating from Elementary School, and is going into Middle School

Congratulation to Jimmy Bortolotti who is graduating from pre-school and is going into Elementary School

