

The Messenger

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

June 2014

Reflections from Pastor Rick

Well, it is finally here, my last Messenger article. We have journeyed together for the past 9 months and finally arrived at the place where you will be welcoming a new pastor and I shall be headed back to retirement and an endless "honey-do" list that I know my wife has been preparing.

As I reflect upon the past year, I appreciate the opportunity that you have given me to do some of the things that I love to do: lead worship, preach, teach Bible studies, and meet caring and loving folks. I confess to a good deal of disappointment that I was not able to accomplish much of what I hoped. Distance and time limitations made some of that impossible, and I thank you all for your understanding and support.

I would not be so presumptuous as to give advice to Fisk, however, I will make a simple observation. Don't spend all your time worrying about making the budget, filling the seats on Sunday morning, or recruiting new members. Spend your time and energy preaching the Gospel, teaching the Gospel, praying the Gospel, living the Gospel, and being the Gospel. Attendance, membership, and financial support all grow when a church community is engaged in doing the right things. Yes, we need strategies to keep ourselves alive and growing, but at the heart of all of those strategies must be our love of Jesus

and our own joy at His presence in our community. If we cannot live with joyful hearts and share that joy with others, why would anyone want to join us?

I shall continue to hold all of you in my heart and prayers. I know that with your new Pastor you will be ready to write a new chapter in the wonderful history of this church community. Thank you for all the kindness and for the prayers that you offered for my ministry among you. May grace continue to abound in this place.

Pastor Rick



Staff of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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

How to reach us:

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

June Birthdays

2nd – Tom Carney
5th – Rick Balcom, Matt Owen, Emmanuel Osei-Kuffour, Rich Foley
8th – Elizabeth Bruns, Stephanie Lindsey
9th – Will Naser
14th – Paul Thurston
15th – Matthew Naser
22nd – Jan Carlson
25th – Dom Friscino, Judy LeBlanc
27th – Howard Harper



June Anniversaries

3rd – Mike and Amy Bruns
10th – Scott and Lori Davis
10th – Keith and Jennifer Garrant
15th – Jan and Carolyn Carlson
20th – Richard and Gail Foley



I was just thinking...

Vacation Bible School

At Council of Ministries we discussed the possibility of having a night time (6-7:30) VBS in late August aimed at younger children. It would be based around sports and we would teach scripture etc. via that genre. I think we would need less people to teach and this could be a lot of fun. Please let me know if you are interested in helping or bringing your child or grandchild or neighbor.

Thanks in advance. - Susan Carney -

Worship Service Participants for

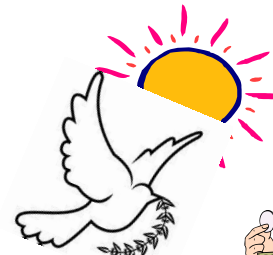


Greeters:

June 1 - David & Janis Cail, Susan Carney
June 8 - Larry & Michelle Drolet
June 15- TBD
June 22 – TBD
June 29 – TBD

Liturgists

June 1 - Josh & Deanna Leedy-Andreozzi
June 8 - Barbara Beekman
June 15- TBD
June 22 – Zachary Gates
June 29 – Dorothy Phillips



Coates



Communion Servers

June 22- Debbie Friscino & Elizabeth

Acolytes

June 1 – Rose Currie
June 8 – Sarah French
June 15- Kelli Garrant
June 23- Elizabeth Mayo
June 30- Rebecca French



Summer messenger Deadline: Wednesday, June 25

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2014 GRADUATES!!!!

Congratulations to Tyler Del Sesto – who graduated from Brown University on May 25th with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He heads to Carnegie Mellon for grad school in the fall.

Congratulations to Stephanie Lindsey - who graduated from New England Institute of Art with a bachelor's degree in graphic design

Congratulations to Jessica Drolet – who is graduating from Natick High School - Jess had the opportunity to go to Colima Mexico for her senior internship program and worked in an orphanage for 2 weeks. She said it was an eye opening experience and got a real understanding of the needs of the children and their culture. She wants to go back next year. Jess loves children and would like to study either nursing (in neo-natal care) or early childhood education. She will be attending college in the Fall. Congratulations!!

Confirmation

June 8th 2014

We are pleased to announce that Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church will confirm three of our youth. We rejoice with them as they make this commitment.

Alexander Garrant
Anna Hoyt
Kelli Garrant

During confirmation the class, members are instructed in the basics of the faith (our identity, our history and heritage, our practices, and our beliefs) and what it means to live the Christian life and be involved in the mission of the church in the world.

But behind the instruction of the class is the larger goal of spiritual formation and Christian discipleship. Our faith is not just about information. It is primarily about relationship – with God and with neighbor. Key to this is spiritual formation - being molded, shaped, or transformed into the image of Christ. This takes time and experiences. We can all participate in this adventure with them. Congratulations!



1. **The last day of Sunday School will be June 8.**
 2. Summer Sunday School for students up to grade 2 will be held during the church service as we did last year. Part way through the service, someone will stand up and have the children follow them to a Sunday School Room.
 3. There will be three Sundays with no Sunday SchoolSummer Sunday School will start on July 1st.
 4. Many , many , many thanks to folks who taught this year and for those who substituted. I was blessed as were the children by your dedication.
 5. A special thank you to Debi Henry and Cherlyn Gates for teaching the adult classes.
 6. Next fall, we hope to have three youth classes and an adult class . If you feel the call to be part of our education program Please speak to me ---- I am not a good asker.
 7. Watch our website for educational information.
- Susan Carney

Words for the Younger Folk

These are some of the songs that we have recently learned in Sunday School Sing.

Sing to the tune of Where is Thumbkin?
My dear Jesus, my dear Jesus.
Bless my day , bless my day,
Help me to be like you,
Help me to be like you,
In all ways, in all ways!
(What a nice prayer song to start the day!)

Sing to the ABC Song and say AMEN a bit louder
ABC GRACE
A B C D E F G
Thank you for this food for me ! AMEN

From the Worship Team:

What an exciting yet bittersweet time for us all at Fisk. As June arrives we will be saying farewell to Deanna, Josh, Ruby and Asia, and to Pastor Rick. We have been soooooo blessed to have had them as such important parts of our lives.

July will be a time of welcomes. Pastor Xia will arrive with her family, husband, Kai, daughter Angela (6yrs) and son Ethan (1yr). We on the Worship Team are looking forward to meeting them and assisting Pastor Xia in her ministry at Fisk.

Pastor Xia is looking forward to continuing our summer Sunday services in rooms 8&9. Starting Sunday, July 6th, at 9:30am. through August we will meet there. Remember the wonderful sacred devotional visuals created for each Sunday? You are invited to make that happen again! Please speak with Barb to choose a Sunday.

Another opportunity to serve in ministry will be a Greeter at the nursery door and in the hall near rooms 8&9. Speak with Sherry Culver to choose a Sunday.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support of the Worship Team as we move forward in serving our Lord,
Joanne Billo, Cheryln Gates, Kathy Reynolds, Sherry Culver,
Geof DelSesto, Barb Beekman (chair), Thom Townsend,
Lois Potter, Dwayne Billingsley, Leo Jaco,
Eric Mazonson, Dorothy Philips



Ready for a relaxing weekend with other Fisk women?

**We have planned a Retreat Weekend in Harrison Maine
Friday, June 13-15.**

- ✓ All are welcome (max is 20 women)
- ✓ Carpools from Fisk (three hours from Natick)
- ✓ Arrive sometime Friday and plan for your own supper
- ✓ Responding to God's Grace—by Rick Black—read and discuss selected stories
- ✓ Craft activities planned for those interested
- ✓ Saturday supper- local church or restaurant
- ✓ We all share in food preparation and clean-up
- ✓ Book Review Morning Coffee with James and The Invisible Thread (Whether or not you have read the book)
- ✓ Relaxing, shopping, games, fellowship, puzzles, hot tub, knitting, swimming, movies etc.
- ✓ Possibly a boat ride
- ✓ "Tea" on the deck
- ✓ Bring your own sheets and towels
- ✓ Cost: \$20.00 + Saturday dinner out

Cut here-----

Yes, I would like to participate. Here is my registration.

*Open to the first 20 to register and pay the \$20. by **June 2.**
Give or send to: Sherry Culver or Janis Cail*

Preaching schedule for the month of June:

Sunday, June 1 - Joshua and Deanna Leedy-Andreozzi
Sunday, June 8 – Rev. Rick Black
Sunday, June 15 – Mark Owen
Sunday, June 22 – Rev. Rick Black
Sunday, June 29- Dorothy Phillips

What does Rotary have to do with Fisk Church?

Last January, one of the local Rotary Clubs - Charles River Rotary, was looking for a new venue for their weekly Thursday breakfast meeting. It came to the attention of the Council of Ministries that this was another way for Fisk to become engaged in the community AND raise some funds for Fisk.



We have just completed our 21st breakfast. I want to thank those faithful people who have gotten to the church between 6:30 and 7:00AM to serve breakfast to the Rotarians. (Michelle and Larry Drolet, Heather Oluwole, David and Janis Cail, David Longworth, Winnie Sinclair, Lois Potter, Susan Carney, Amy Bruns and Joanne Billo) Others have stopped in to see what happens and possibly help when available. Come for breakfast some morning and you can help too!

We serve between 7 and 14 people and have profited \$2500.00 after expenses for the food etc. Are you interested in helping? There is always room for more helping hands.

Thanks for your support.
Marcia Hoyt

Celtic Dancers are coming!

During Time of Fellowship on June 29 we will be entertained by some student dancers. Come get your coffee and enjoy!

(one dancer is the grandchild of Leo and Julia Jaco)



From Missions:

Please save these dates!

Sunday, June 8th

Family Fundraiser Cookout

Immediately following Worship

Price: \$5 per person, \$20 per family.



Price Includes a choice of: hamburger or hotdog, chips, drink, cupcake or brownie

Family Activities:



balloon making
face painting
music
games



Thursday, June 26th

Open Door Community Dinner – Can you help?

Menu:

**Mom's meatloaf
potatoes,
roll,
green beans
brownies**

Sign-up sheet will be available in mid June



It's Time for Fisk's Family Promise Host Weeks

From July 13th-July 27th, up to four families will be staying at Fisk and you can make a difference. Help prepare and serve a dinner, play with children, fix a Saturday morning breakfast or have an overnight at church. Sign up online (link is on Fisk's website) or by contacting Debbie Friscino at fris@rcn.com. Thanks for serving.

Here's some Family Promise national information that applies to our families too:

"As always, some of the unique elements of our program stand out. Nearly 6% of our families were headed by a single male parent. (One quarter were two-parent families; 65% were headed by the mother.) In most communities, it is not possible for such a family to stay together in shelter. Fifty-eight percent of the people we served were children, and 43% of those were age 5 and under.

Digging deeper into the issues behind family homelessness, here is what we found. Thirty-eight percent of guest families became homeless as a direct result of eviction or foreclosure. The primary factor was *foreclosure by the landlord*, not families themselves suffering foreclosure (though that happens as well). Despite efforts by HUD to eliminate homelessness among veterans, the percentage, 2.9% of adult guests, is virtually unchanged from previous years.

We continue to see a shift from transitional housing to permanent housing, with 60% of families moving into permanent housing and only 15% into transitional.

Pastoral Transitions -Join us for these special events planned

June 1, Pizza Luncheon for Deanna and Josh after Worship, during the Time for Fellowship

June 22 Pastor Rick's last Sunday and a special Time for Fellowship after Worship in his honor, hosted by the SPRC.

July 1 is the first day of Pastor Xia's appointment to Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church.

July 1, Ice Cream Social from 6:30pm to 8pm to welcome Pastor Xia Jiao and her family

July 6. Pastor Xia's first Sunday leading Worship



Finance Update – June 2014

The faithful support of you, the congregation, has been a blessing in the first five months of the year, through May, and we thank you for that stewardship!

Our financial update, through April:

- Your financial support is within 1% of our Budget – *Thank you!*
- We are carefully spending less than our budgeted expenses!
- We pray for continued growth, and 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. All of our missions and ministries require support: our time, our talents, our gifts, and our financial resources.

Many great things are happening! Those ministries, and new ideas, depend directly upon the financial support of each and every one of us. With prayer, cooperation, intentional dedication to growing our church, and HIS grace, we will succeed in 2014 and beyond.

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

Michael Bruns (Chair), Pastor Rick Black, Dorothy Phillips (Lay Leader), Thom Townsend (Chair-Admin Board), David Cail (Treasurer), Sherry Culver (Financial Secretary), Geoff Del Sesto (Trustees), Tom Currie (SPRC), Larry Drolet, Frank Foss, Jen Garrant..



Family Fun And Service Project Night

Sunday, June 22, 2014

5:00pm -6:30 pm

Fisk UMC is hosting a free night of fun and a service project event for the whole family! Food will be provided.

This event is being offered in support of the UMC's "Imagine No Malaria" campaign.

We'll also be learning about ways to protect ourselves from insect-borne diseases.