

# The Messenger

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

November 2012

## Reflections from Pastor Mark

### Gratitude

There is a reason, don't you know, why most churches traditionally run their stewardship campaigns sometime near Thanksgiving, and that reason is probably obvious to you: *The approach of Thanksgiving reminds us to be grateful for our blessings.*

We've been studying Adam Hamilton's book "*Enough*" in our adult Sunday School class. Very good book. (Adam Hamilton is a United Methodist, pastor of the 12,000 member Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City, MO.) He makes a number of important, even profound points in the book and among them are these:

- (1) *The greatest obstacle to generous giving is fear.* Many people – even Christians – are afraid that they will not have enough if they tithe to their church. Hamilton acknowledges, and I agree, that some of us are burdened with so much debt that we may not yet be able to tithe. Yet for many of us, fear of scarcity keeps us from being as generous as we are truly able.
- (2) *Our fear can be overcome by faith, specifically faith that remembers to be grateful.* Hamilton reminds his congregation (which is encouraged to tithe) that *God is a God of abundance* and that they have been greatly blessed.

A couple of years back, my wife, Margaret, pointed out to me the experience of an author she'd come to appreciate: Every

night before going to sleep, she (the author) lists the blessings of the day. At first she could think of only a few but as she continued the practice, she found that the list grew longer and longer every night. *She discovered that she was being abundantly blessed every day in ways she had simply failed to notice.*

What a difference there is between people who count their blessings and those who are focused on the negative. Truly, this is no small thing. *I believe, in fact, that the secret of happiness is gratitude.* I have seen this to be true in the lives of affluent Christians and those of more modest means: *Gratitude for God's gifts is the key to happiness – and the reason for the desire to give generously in return.* As a brother Christian once said to me, *"This is the best time of the year; we get to decide what we're going to give away!"* Now that's a grateful Christian!

I challenge you, friends, to start counting your blessings. Give God thanks and praise for all you've been given. Do this every day, every chance you have. I know it will change your life.

Wishing you the gift of gratitude, happiness, and the joy of generous giving,

*—Pastor Mark*

#### Staff of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

<b>Pastor:</b>	<b>Rev. Mark Goad</b>
<b>Admin. / Newsletter Editor:</b>	<b>Judy Bortolotti</b>
<b>Deacon:</b>	<b>Rev. Cheryln Gates</b>
<b>Youth Minister:</b>	<b>Josh &amp; Deanna Leedy-Andreozzi</b>
<b>Choir Director /Organist:</b>	<b>Eric Mazonson</b>

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**Church Website:** [www.gbzm-umc.org/fiskmumc](http://www.gbzm-umc.org/fiskmumc)

## Worship Service Participants and Nursery Volunteers for November



### Greeters:

November 4- Gary & Marcia Hoyt  
November 11- Betsy Lindsey  
November 18- Geoff Del Sesto & Sherry Culver  
November 25- Pat Price

### Acolytes

November 4- Kelli G.  
November 11- Sarah F.  
November 18- Rose C.  
November 25- Kelli G.

### Cross bearers

Matt S.  
Will S.  
Ashley S,  
Susan C.



### Liturgists:

November 4- Rev. Cheryl Gates  
November 11- Thom Townsend  
November 18- Mark Owen  
November 25- Deanna Leedy-Andreozzi



### Communion Servers

November 4 – Tom & Susan Carney

### Nursery Workers



### 9:00am

November 4 - Debbie F. & Jennifer G.  
November 11 - Jennifer F. & Jennifer G.  
November 18- Debbie F. & Jennifer G.  
November 25- Jennifer F. & Jennifer G.

### 10:30am

Scott & Jennifer F.  
Crystal M & Pat P.  
Sarah G. & Heather O.  
Janis C. & Carol S.



### Coffee Hour Hosts

November 4- Gary & Marcia Hoyt  
November 11- Consecration Sunday Luncheon  
November 18- Pat Price  
November 25- TBA

## Laity Lines From Our Lay Leader

***“Gratitude is a continual celebration of life!”***



**Twenty Questions!** What is one of your life scripture verses? What is your life motto or slogan? What would you rather have: a pet polar bear or a pet kangaroo? Can you name five things that you are grateful for? What is your favorite food part of Thanksgiving dinner? What is one of the things you need most right now? What will you never do? When you look back into your past – what is one piece/thing that you miss the most? What frustrates you? How many cookies did Andrew eat? What are you known for by your friends and family? What is one of your favorite hymns? What is your life theme song? What are three things that you can't get enough of? What is the difference between living and existing? What is one of the best things that happened to you last weekend? What action would your name be if it were a verb? What is a favorite memory of yours from a Christmas past? What is the most “out there, outrageous” thing you've done for God? What is the name of the last song that you listened to?

### **TWENTY QUESTIONS DISCUSSION OPPORTUNITY**

This year, Twenty Questions has been a regular writing in Laity Lines. Here's is your chance to answer these questions – out loud! Here is your chance to share your ideas and opinions! On Sunday's, November 4 and 11 in Ogle Parlor at 9:20 a.m., come – answer and discuss!

**ALL SAINTS SUNDAY** is November 4. On this Sunday, we remember the many beloved church members, family members and friends who have gone onto their eternity in the past year. This is a day of sacred celebration as we worship together, share memories and moments of those we loved, and light candles of reflection in honor of those that touched our lives.



A veteran is someone who, at one point in his or her life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America" for an amount of "up to and including my life." To all of the veterans in our congregation – *Thank You!*

### **A TISKET A TASKET – A BRIGHT FUN FAIR BASKET!**



Fisk's Holiday Fair is on Saturday, November 10 – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. At the fair in a section of the Silent Auction there are theme baskets that are put together with clear wrapping and ribbon. There is a sewing basket, a Mexican basket, a stuffed animal basket – and your designed basket? Be creative! Talk to

Michelle Drolet or Heather Oluwole if you have a basket to donate. If you are like me, I could not wrap and ribbon a basket to save my life – but I know a few people that could! Have fun! Committees and groups can do a basket! Families, friends, prayer partners – time to create a basket!

**WORKSHOPS!** There are three workshops coming up at Rolling Ridge in North Andover. All workshops are 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Gratitude – Gift of Grace, Growing in Love is on Monday, November 19<sup>th</sup>. How Full Is Your Bucket is on Monday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. Advent Quiet Day is on Tuesday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. For more information, flyers are in the literature rack outside the nursery or by going to [www.rollingridge.org](http://www.rollingridge.org) for info and registration.



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

**The people of The United Methodist Church™**

*God's Blessings, My Prayers,  
Debi*



## **WREATHS**

Fresh 12" Balsam wreaths will be here Sunday—November 25, ready for decorating. Wreaths are \$15 each.

For many years, the United Methodist Economic Ministry in Salem Maine, has assisted their local families with

the creation of Christmas wreaths. The families use the income to pay taxes and insurance and to bridge the gap in seasonal employment. For some this is the only winter income they have.

Order yours soon. How many do you need?

You can sign the clipboard on the bulletin board by the Youth Room, call Gary Hoyt (655-0077) or see one of the UMM in church.

**Help support this Methodist Mission site!**

### **United Methodist Men**

The men are meeting on **November 13** for a tour of Natick's Morse Institute Library and some of the current special displays. They will enjoy dinner at one of the downtown restaurants either before or following the tour. Ken Reynolds is the program contact. Meet at the church parking lot at 6:30pm

Reservations recommended

Brad Vining 508-655-1311 or Gary Hoyt 508-655-0077





## Vintage Table at the Fair

Do you have things that are just too good to put on the Good as New Table ?

We have an answer for you .... The Vintage Table . Vintage is anything that is

20 or more years old. I will be putting a Hummel , a crystal dish , a shaker box , and an old milk bottle on this table. I also will have an old sewing kit . Help us to earn money for Missions, and part with things that you are not sure why you still have, but had to have a good place to put them. What we do not sell we will return to you. Thanks in advance and please visit what we hope will be **A Treasure Trove.**



Jr. High / Sr. High students are studying in the LINC curriculum. LinC stands for Living in Christ. It addresses how teens deal with realities in their lives. This digital

curriculum is contemporary and biblically based. It is very timely and speaks of what is trending among youth nation and worldwide. If you would like to know more about this curriculum please visit the Cokesbury site on the internet. Thanks Deanna and Josh for choosing this new Methodist curriculum.

December Messenger Deadline – November 29 @ 8:30am

## From the Missions Commission

Thank you to everyone for a very successful Food Pantry drive in September! We collected the most food in a month so far! Also, **many** thanks to all those who participated in our October fundraisers - The pumpkin sale and cookout.



In the month of November, we will be donating our Coffee Hour money to the Veterans, also our Coat Drive for kids is ongoing, and in December we are hosting the Angel Tree and Mitten Tree again this year.



-Heather Oluwale and Michelle Drolet-



**REMINDER TO FALL BACK!**  
**Sunday, November 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**turn your clocks back one hour.**

## Thanksgiving Sinclair Basket

The Step-Up and Pop-Up Kids are creating a “very large” Sinclair Basket for Thanksgiving. They are collecting Thanksgiving items for the Natick Food Pantry: canned vegetables, cranberry sauce, rice and bags of potatoes. Kids will be collecting these specific items before worship on November 4, 11 & 18 in memory of Mr. Sinclair. Don Sinclair was a beloved member of Fisk UMC, he was 77 years old and married to Winnie for 49 years. In his memory, and in honor of Winnie’s life, the kids have a goal of 126 items!

# Come to our Holiday Fair !!

Saturday, November 10, 2012

9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

106 Walnut St. Natick



Crafts    Ornaments    Cakes    Toys    Gift  
items    Jewelry    Lobster Rolls    Books  
Silent Auction    Breads    Craft items  
Vendors    Cookies    Good-as-New    Jelly  
Fudge    Vintage Items    Gift Cert.    Soaps



Sponsored by the United Methodist Women

# Holiday Fair

Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>

I am willing to help in the following ways:

- ☐ I will contribute knit and sewn items
- ☐ I will bake for the Bakery Table
- ☐ I will make batches of cookies
- ☐ I have some jewelry to contribute
- ☐ I can help set-up Friday during the day
- ☐ I will help on Fair Day at a table
- ☐ I will help clean-up
- ☐ I will contribute a Silent Auction item
- ☐ I will tell my neighbors
- ☐ I will bring others to shop
- ☐ I will come for lunch
- ☐ I have a Good-as-New item to donate
- ☐ I will donate an item to the Vintage Table

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Leave in the office in the basket!**

Sponsored by UMW





## A Night in Bethlehem December 15, 2012

Please pass the word that Fisk Church will once again be celebrating that night in Bethlehem when our sweet Savior was born.

Watch for the volunteer opportunities to be appearing on one of the boards near Whipple Hall. Help us to honor the birth of our King!

Whipple Hall will be converted into the village of his birth. This fun, educational, and reflective time is to recognize and re enact that wonderful night. All ages are welcome .....

Invite friends ....mark the calendar .... Do not miss this special event.

See Susan Carney with questions or suggestions .



## Concert at Fisk!

I'm thrilled to have the opportunity to invite the Fisk community to a benefit concert presented by the brilliant bass-baritone **Ian Pomerantz**, a member of the Sephardic (Iberian Jewish) ensemble *Voice of the Turtle*, along with me **on November 17 at 7:00pm**. We will be performing music by Mozart, Schumann, Ravel, the 20th-century French composer Jacques Ibert (a cycle of four songs written for a film of *Don Quixote*), and a set of Yiddish art songs. A \$10 donation is suggested, \$5 for students and seniors.

- *Eric Mazonson*



## BALLOON MAN is coming back!

A couple of years ago we had a very special visitor at the **Holiday Fair—the Balloon Man**. He is a performer for children and children's programs.

He will be giving a concert or singing time at 11:00am on the day of the Fair, Saturday, November 10th, and then be around to make balloon figures, animals and hats. Tell your friends and bring your children and grandchildren. It is a GREAT time.

## Alternative Christmas

Mark your calendars for this annual event!

Plan to do some of your holiday shopping while supporting a non-profit agency. We plan to have gift ideas from Rosie's Place in Boston, Heifer International, UMCOR (United Methodist Committee on Relief) SERRV items and others. We will "set-up shop" on December 2nd and the 9th. This is sponsored by the United Methodist Women for YOU. Visit the tables in Whipple Hall following worship.

