

The Messenger

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

November 2014

Reflections from Pastor Xia

Dear Fisk Church family and friends,

Grace and peace to you. Greetings in the precious name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

This coming November we will begin an annual church-wide Stewardship Campaign. First, I'd like to say thank you for your generous giving in the past year. Without your support, our church's ministry could not happen.

For a while I have been reflecting on what stewardship means to our day-to-day life. To Christians, stewardship is an integral part of spiritual disciplines, and a way of Christian life. It is about how we wisely manage our lives and resources, use them responsibly, share them lovingly with all people of God, so that we can multiply God's goodness in this world. It reminds us that everything is a gift from God, which is entrusted to our care. Being good stewards is to intentionally practice spiritual disciplines of praying and giving—giving freely of your time, talents, money, presence, service, and prayers, so that we as the church can best serve God and God's people.

This year I encourage you to give whatever you can—presence, prayer, money, service—to God and God's church. Your financial support to the church will help a wide variety of missions and ministries here at Fisk, and help the wider community that we are serving. We find great joy in knowing that by giving to the church, we can be a part of something bigger than we are.

Some of us may be struggling financially and may not be in a position to give right now. Know that we care, and if there is any way we can be of support to you—by praying with you, praying for you, or providing other assistance—please let me and your church family know. We support one another in Christ's love and build up the kingdom of heaven on earth. It is another important way to practice giving—giving of time, energy, care, prayer and service, and multiplying all this to be a blessing to others.

The stewardship campaign taking place in November is just one way that we at Fisk Church participate in the ongoing story of Jesus. I encourage you to be an active participant in the life of our church. Your active involvement is one of the most important ways in which you can celebrate and proclaim the good news that Jesus is alive! Thank you for all you do to further the mission and work of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church. You make a difference here!

Blessings as you continue to follow Jesus!

Pastor Xia Jiao-Chur

Staff of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

Pastor:	Rev. Xia Jiao-Chur
Admin. / Newsletter Editor:	Judy Bortolotti
Youth Minister:	Rev. Marcus Hill
Deacon:	Rev. Cheryln Gates
Choir Director /Organist:	Eric Mazonson

How to reach us:

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Church/Judy's Email: fiskoffice@fiskumc.org

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Cheryln's Email: deacongates@gmail.com

Eric's Email: emazonson@verizon.net

Church Website: www.fiskumc.org

18th – Frank and Charlene Foss

Remember to turn your clocks back
on Saturday night, November 1st
before going to bed!
Daylight savings time ends
Sunday, November 2 at 2:00am



Pastor Xia's Vacation

Pastor Xia is on vacation from November 9 – 22,
Pastor Xia will still be on call for pastoral emergencies thru
November 12 and Rev. Cheryl Gates will be on call from
November 13 - 22

Worship Service Participants for November



Ushers/Greeters:

November 2- David & Janis Cail
November 9- David & Janis Cail
November 16- David & Janis Cail
November 23- TBA
November 30- TBA



Liturgists:

November 2- Rev. Cheryl Gates
November 9- Jennifer French
November 16- Dorothy Phillips
November 23- Thom Townsend
November 30- Susan Carney



Communion Servers

November 2 – James & Dorothy Phillips

**December Messenger Deadline is
Thursday, November 20th at 8:00am**

WORSHIP WINDOW FOR NOVEMBER

November 2 --- All Saints Service will include the lighting of candles in memory of our Fisk sisters and brothers now at rest with our Lord and the celebration of Holy Communion

November 9 --- Debi Henry will be sharing the Word
November 16 - Rev. Cheryl Gates will be sharing the Word

November 23 - Thanksgiving Sunday

November 30 - "Hanging of the Greens". 1st Sunday of Advent. A wonderfully unique service to usher in Advent!
Being part of the Worship Service is a great experience!



Opportunities abound:

Greeter, Usher, Communion server, liturgist,
choir, decorating the Sanctuary,
preparing light refreshment for Time of Fellowship.

*As the hymn says "I am the Church, you are the Church,
WE are the Church together"!*



Ushers and greeters Wanted!

Be sure to visit the Fisk website and sign-up to be an usher or greeter under the Ministry Sign-ups link.
No computer? You may also call the church office and our Admin Assistant, Judy, will add you to the schedule.

UMW Hannah Circle

The Hannah Circle will be meeting on Wednesday, November 12th at 12 p.m. to 2 p.m. Our "normal" second Tuesday in November is Veterans Day. Women are invited to bring their lunch, beverages and dessert will be provided. We will have a short business meeting and then the Hannah Fair Factory will be opened! You have the choices of making candy, flower arrangements, or a craft project for the Country Fair! Please contact a Nancy if you can join us! (Nancy Parece or Nancy Swan) ☺

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY is November 2. 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. On this Sunday, we remember some of the many beloved Hannah Circle members and friends who have gone onto their eternity:

* Nancy Howatt * Dorothy Bremner * Avis Dinino *
* Jean Balcom * Eva Spadoni * Dot Osmond *
* Verna Thurston * Hazel Graham * Edna McHatton *
* Lorna Taraki * Grace Tenney * Phyllis Buston *

SAVE the DATE

December 13

Do you want to be an angel?

Maybe a King? Shepherd?

Be the stage manager?

Tend the fire!

Help with the music?



Our 2nd Annual COMMUNITY PAGEANT--
this means anyone in the community can
participate, the Fisk community or the wider
Natick community.

Sponsored by Council of Ministries for all of us!

Stewardship

The time is upon us, as followers of Jesus Christ, to reflect on our blessings. The love of our Savior manifests itself in our families, our community, our health and well-being. As Christians, we are called upon to be good stewards of those blessings, and we are called upon to give back generously to our Lord.

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously." – 2 Corinthians 9:6

You will be receiving an important letter in November. Please prayerfully consider your stewardship and your Commitment of Giving with our Lord.



SHOES SHOES SHOES

Thanks to everyone who has already bought shoes in for our project. We have 600 pairs at the present time. Keep up the good work and let's keep the momentum going. Tell everyone you know that we are trying to get shoes on feet and enable folks to start a business to give them a salary and a new life. Old shoes can do just that! Sitting at the hairdresser's Talk about this great project. People just jump in. While we will make money to help support our budget, the main impetus is to support folks in a unique way. We will be collecting until the end of 2014.

Together we can change lives and support our vision.

Questions? Ask Pat Price or Susan Carney.

May God bless our efforts.

Our Neighbor and Local Community SHOE BAG CHALLENGE



DRIVE-THRU BYE SHOE!
SUNDAY - NOVEMBER 9, 2014
8 a.m. to 1 p.m.



A SEAT IS SAVED FOR YOU

We meet Sunday mornings at 9:25AM in room. 9. Join us as we continue to study the women of the Bible. Now, what could Eve or Hannah or Ruth possibly have to teach us about our life?

They are in the Bible for a reason.

Come and learn from others what these women have to offer us. God's word never fails to bless us.

Join us!

Susan Carney, Class Leader

From the Education Committee

Please check out the Education Board and consider being a Sunday School Teacher or a substitute a few times this year ...



A Prayer for the Children of God
Place this in your Memory ...
Talk to God

God in heaven hear my prayer,
keep me in thy loving care.
Be my guide in all I do,
Bless all those who love me too.
Amen. --- *Traditional*

Memory Verse: *Proverbs 3:5* – Trust in the Lord with all your heart.

Take time to read your Bible.
You will find treasures on its pages!

United Methodist Women

Our calendars are full of activities that support our mission--to support women, children and youth...around the world.

- ❖ **"Thank You"** to everyone who supported our Yard Sale and helped us raise about \$700.00.
- ❖ We need your help again! The **Annual Country Fair** is November 15. It is always a "great day" at Fisk. See other page for more information.
- ❖ November 4...after you VOTE come to our **Pot Luck supper**, bring your World Thank Offering. If you didn't receive a "coffee cup container" to save your offering...any container will work...even an envelope. This is your gift for all the things you are THANKFUL for in life.



- ❖ Looking ahead...December 2 is our **Christmas Gathering!** Lots of special things happening. **SAVE THE DATE.** We will gather at 7:00pm, enjoy a light supper (provided), and celebrate the Advent season in a number of ways. Bring a friend. Invite someone in the pews that might not come on her own. Need a ride? We have willing drivers.



More information: Janis Cail or Debbie Friscino

Come to our Holiday Fair !!

Saturday, November 15, 2014

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

\$\$ Finance Update – November 2014

The faithful support of you, the congregation, continues to be a blessing. However, we continue to find ourselves behind our Plan after nine months. As a result we are spending wisely, and carefully managing our resources:

- Together, our financial support is 12% below Budget, through September,
- We are spending less than our budgeted expenses to compensate, but expenses continue, and we may not be able to fully fund our valued ministries at our current rates,
- We continue to pray for improvements in our financial position.

We would urge you to review your nine month Statement of Giving which you just received, and make every effort to catch up on your commitment to Fisk's ministries. If you are current, we thank you, and ask that you consider increasing your support this year. If you have not given in the past, we would urge you to consider supporting our ministries. Our Plan still requires us to "borrow" from our resources in order to fund all of our planned ministries in 2014. We need your prayerful assistance.

The ministries of Fisk touch so many people in so many ways. As we enter into the holiday season, we must prayerfully and purposefully work to grow our church spiritually...and our finances will follow.

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

Michael Bruns (Chair), Pastor Xia, 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.

WREATHS

Fresh 12" Balsam wreaths will be here Sunday, November 30, ready for decorating. Wreaths are \$15 each. For many years, local families in the Western Mountains of Maine have been making handmade fresh balsam wreaths. These are distributed through the United Methodist Economic Ministry in Salem Maine. This is one of our Mission sites in N.E. The income from these wreaths assists some of the local families with much needed income to carry them through the long, cold Maine winters. 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 Nursery, call Gary Hoyt (508-655-0077) or see one of the UMM in church.

Help support this Methodist Mission site!



SAVE THE DATE!
*Breakfast and photo
With Santa*
Saturday, December 6
8:00am
More details

to follow...



Country Fair

Saturday, November 15th

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 and have lunch
- ☐ I have a Good-as-New item to donate
- ☐ I will donate an item to the Vintage Table
- ☐ Can I _____?

Name _____

Zephania 3:17 in part says “*The Lord your God is with you.*” It also says that “*The Lord your God takes great delight in you.*” It also says that “*The Lord your God will rejoice over you with singing.*” YOU bring joy to the Lord! How cool is that!!

If you have a need – reach out to us! If you have a spiritual gift of nurturing, or have the ability to help church family members with transportation to and from church or to medical appointments, or have the caring gift of making meals, helping with household chores, etc. – please contact Pastor Xia, Sarah Gates, Debi Henry or Judy in the church office.