

The Messenger

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

October 2012

Reflections from Pastor Mark

I was shocked the other morning, Margaret and I taking our terrier for her early morning walk, to notice a large maple tree half-turned a glorious red-orange, looking for all the world almost to be on fire.

Nothing unusual about that, you're thinking – and you're right. The color comes every fall and it is stupendous and wonderful – but hardly a surprise. It just goes to show where my mind was – or rather where it wasn't: Fall seems to have snuck up when I wasn't looking. (After a long, rather slow-paced summer, September came with a roar of activity, everything happening at once, and I've been preoccupied with many, many things.)

John Lennon wrote: "Life is what happens to you while you're making other plans." Pretty good line, I think. But more accurate, I believe, would be: "Life is what happens while you're looking the other way."

That is not to say that the tasks which occupy my time are not real or important. Much of what I do is well worth doing and all of it is certainly real. But sometimes – and don't tell me I'm having senior moments! – you find yourself lifting your eyes from whatever has preoccupied your time and think: Where did the day, the week, the month go? How did it get to be the beginning of fall – when it was just the end of August?

Now, before you get to thinking that I am whining about being too busy, I want to tell you that's not what I'm on about here. No, not at all. I am reminding myself – and anybody who cares to read this – of the pleasure and yes, Christian duty, of paying attention to the wonderful life – in this wonderful world – that God has given us. I sometimes think that all of God's creation conspires to wake us up. Priest and poet, Gerard Manley Hopkins

wrote these famous words of praise (excerpted from *The Grandeur of God*):

*The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. . . .*

*And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things. .*



*Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with
ah! bright wings.*

I hope Father Hopkins will forgive me for mangling his wonderful poem (I suggest taking the time to read the full text) – but you get the point, I hope:

Life is precious

God's creation is beautiful

Every day is a gift to be lived

God bless this day to you – and you to the day.

—Pastor Mark

Staff of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

Pastor:	Rev. Mark Goad
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Deacon:	Rev. Cheryln Gates
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Finance Update – October 2012

The fall season is a beautiful reminder of God's many gifts to us. Financially, we continue on "Plan" after eight months, but we are not making progress on our need for growth in 2012. The faithful support of you the congregation continues to be a blessing, and we are spending wisely: Our financial update is little changed from the September update:

- Your financial support is within 5% of Budget through August, down somewhat from July
- We are spending at, or less than our budgeted expenses, which were targeted at much less than what we are called to do as a faithful congregation
- We continue to pray for improvements in our financial position.

We began the year, and our Stewardship Plan, with the forced 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 require us to do more. As we enter the fall, we must prayerfully and purposefully work to grow our church spiritually...and our finances will follow.

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.

United Methodist Women

The Fisk UMW has a very busy season planned. Our next regular unit meeting is **Tuesday October 2** at 7:30pm. We have engaged a speaker from Natick's NEW Community / Senior Center. Debbie Budd will inform us about the many activities and programs available to the citizens of our town.

Come and join us! We will be addressing our **Yard Sale** scheduled for October 13 and the Country Fair on November 10.

Also, on October 14 our UMW will celebrate **Children's Sabbath** in worship. This is an Annual Celebration of Children throughout the world.

United Methodist Men

Wanna go out to eat October 9th?

We are going to the *Restaurant 45*, one of our favorites for dinner.



Meet us in the church parking lot at 6:30pm to travel to Medway.

Call Gary Hoyt 508-655-0077 Or Brad Vining 508-655-1311

The Preacher's Aid Society has announced the passing of Rev. Earl D. Haywood on August 29th, former pastor of several Methodist churches and former DS in the NE Conference.

Condolences can be sent to his spouse :

*Mrs. June Haywood
80 Deaconess Road, unit 247
Concord, MA 01742-4170*

YARD SALE

October 13 8:30am-noon

YES, it is that time again! It is time to go through your closets, cellar, garage or where ever you store things you no longer need or want. Bring them to the church between October 8 and 12 and we will earn money for MISSIONS.

Everyone wins! You clean out, someone finds "just what they need" and the UMW earns Mission Money to help women, children and youth in need. (no clothes...but just about everything else). If you have a large item and it does not sell, we ask you to take it back, as we do not have a way to dispose of it.

NEW---coffee and donuts for sale to the public!



Website News

Where can you find Pastor Mark's latest sermon, a link to the UMW Reading program, when the next Council on Ministries meeting is, what the youth group is doing, and a copy of the Messenger? All these and much more can be found on our church website www.fiskumc.org. Check it out!

Holiday Fair

November 10, 2012



This is the day to do your Holiday shopping, have lunch at the church, invite your friends and just enjoy the fellowship...all while helping us do MISSION work.

Need a decoration for the Thanksgiving table?

Begin your Christmas shopping!

Have one of Lois' lobster rolls...one of the best in town.

Enjoy a fresh bag of popcorn...hot and buttery!

Visit our Vintage table...find just the right thing for your home or for a gift.

Of course, you can buy your holiday cookies, breads, pies, fudge and more.

Do you have a gift to be re-gifted or something else that is "as good as new?"

Used books...they are always popular. You might find a treasure on Elizabeth's book table.

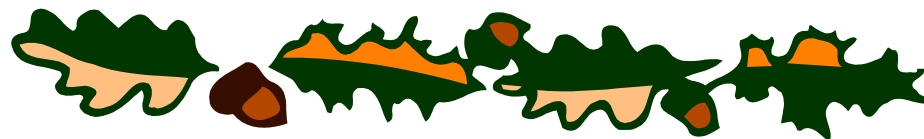
The ever popular Silent Auction will be supervised by Michelle and Heather. Can you contribute a Gift Certificate or something new to be auctioned?

Also--Kids Room, Ornaments, Used Jewelry, crafts, and outside crafters and vendors...and much more

Watch the Sunday Bulletins or the website for more info.

www.fiskumc.org

These are just a few hints of what will be available. Can you help by making items for the tables? Baking? Working the day of the Fair? Shopping here at Fisk? Do you know an outside vendor looking for fair space? Call Janis Cail, Sherry Culver or Debbie Friscino



WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

*Connecting to Christ through
Communion and Community*

OCTOBER 7, 2012



World Communion Sunday is celebrated the first Sunday in October. This day has taken on new relevancy and depth of meaning in a world where globalization often has undermined peace and justice - and in a time when fear divides the peoples of God's earth. On this day, we celebrate our oneness in Christ, the Prince of Peace, in the midst of the world we are called to serve - a world ever more in need of peacemaking. Come celebrate World Communion Sunday at 10:30 a.m. World Communion Sunday is designated as a "Special Sunday" in the UMC and you have the opportunity to give a special offering that provides scholarships for U.S. and International students and assists racial and ethnic minority persons pursuing various avenues of ministry

ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE

The Annual Charge Conference of the Church will be
Monday, October 22nd at 7:00 PM.

The District Superintendent will be here to preside over the meeting.

All Committees are expected to get their reports into Judy at the Church Office no later than Monday, October 1st at 8:30AM.

The district Superintendent will also be meeting with all members of the STAFF/PASTOR RELATIONS COMMITTEE on the same evening at 6:00 PM.

Deadline for November Messenger is October 24 @ 8:30am

When did YOU receive this October Messenger?

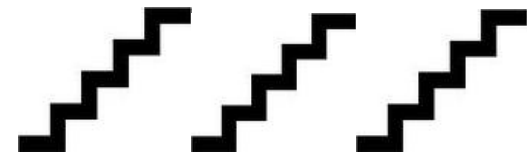
If you live outside of Natick, it may take up to 3 weeks for the Messenger to arrive ... *well* after many of the events promoted in it have happened. If you are one of those families who usually receive the Messenger well after the first day of the month, we want to know!

Please contact Judy in the church office fiskumc@aol.com or 508-653-1674 and let her know. We will send your Messenger via first class mail so you get this important information about your Fisk church family.

If you provide an email address to the church office, Judy will also add you to the email distribution list for the Messenger.



Fisk Step-Up Kids – Grades 3-5 Fisk Pop-Up Kids – Pre K-Grade 2



Sunday, October 28 - 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Pizza, Pumpkins, Prayers and Praying
Join us for pizza, decorating of pumpkins for kids/families in shelters, and have a discussion on prayer and praying.



This past summer, a part of our mission project was to collect shoeboxes. Now it is time to wrap and fill them! Can you help us fill them by providing one of the items listed on the gift idea list? Please leave items in the "Christmas Box" in the church office by October 28. Thank you! Boxes will be shipped to Spirit Lake Ministry Center, a UMC mission site, for Christmas gift distribution to children of all ages in need on the reservations in the Dakota's

Laity Lines From Our Lay Leader

**“Can’t sleep?
Don’t count sheep....talk to the Shepherd!”**

Twenty Questions! Who are you? Can you name three things that you are grateful for? Can you name five people in our congregation that you think are wonderful? What do you want to do when you grow up? Can you describe your ideal self? Are you living the life of your dreams? How many choir members sang in church last Sunday? What is the title of #156 in our United Methodist Hymnal? What are you busy with today? Are you putting any parts of your life on hold? *(You know what’s coming next!)* Why? Imagine - \$1 million dollars is yours, tax free. What are you going to do with the money? What is your mission? Can you name a time when you were most inspired? Most motivated? Most charged up? Do you have a life scripture? Is there a specific parable that comforts you? If you could be a cartoon character or a television/movie character for 24 hours, who would that be and why? How often do you clean between your toes? What is your favorite Christmas carol?



MEET OUR NEW BISHOP! Tuesday, Oct. 9th, 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., the Bishop, clergy and laity have dinner together followed by a 6 p.m. to 8 p. m. session at the First UMC in Hudson. From the Bishop’s Office – *“The session will open with a short worship service, but after that, our time together will be a very informal time for clergy and laity to share their dreams and visions for our Conference and ask questions so he can get a better understanding of who we are and we can get to know him better as well.”* Please contact Pastor Mark by October 2nd if you would like to attend. Bishop Sudarshana Devadhar was assigned to the New England Conference – 600+ congregations in six states.



Ministry of Caring: Prayer Chain!! Fisk Memorial’s Prayer Chain is a group of concerned and caring people who are praying for you. We know how important and comforting it is that there are people who are praying for you, me, family members, friends and our world. If you would like to be a part of our prayer chain and would like to receive a telephone call or email once a week, please let me know by the end of October.



Starbucks! Food donations from Starbucks continue to be picked up during the week and on Sunday’s. The Salvation Army’s Miracle Kitchen, Family Promise Metrowest, Pathways Family Shelter, Turning Point Shelter, our coffee hour at times, and two domestic violence shelters under Jane Doe, Inc. are our current recipients of these items. If you are interested in helping out on a Sunday or Wednesday with a pick-up, please contact me.

Family Promise Metrowest! October 14th, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. they are having a fundraising cookout at Stop & Shop in Natick. If you are interested in helping out, please let Debbie Friscino or me know. Feel free to stop by!



Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, Witness! How are your membership vows doing this fall? Have you had a recent check-up or given yourself a report card? Need to serve somewhere at Fisk? Do something? Be involved? Talk with me or Pastor Mark



Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The people of The United Methodist Church™

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

Did you know?

Did you know that Fisk collects and recycles...beverage cans, Campbell Soup UPS bar codes, Box Tops for Education, beverage can pull tabs, good used clothing and non-perishable food?



Box Tops for Education support schools with educational products. Cut them off your packaging and place them in the container in the church kitchen.

Campbell Soups and many other products have a Labels for Education UPC bar code. Place these in the correct container in the kitchen. Benefit Cooper Community Center



Aluminum pull tabs from beverage cans---believe it or not---buys medical and support equipment for Shriner's Burn Hospitals. Container is in kitchen.

Aluminum beverage cans are redeemed for cash for the church budget. Container is in the closet near the Janitor's closet.



Good, used clothing and a few other household items are delivered to United Methodist Economic Ministry in Salem Maine several times a year.

Bring in your donations of clean useable clothing and put in the container in the back of the sanctuary.

Non-perishable food and personal items are collected weekly in the rear of the sanctuary and delivered to the Natick Food Pantry.



These are ongoing projects that do not cost anything but your time and desire to give.



Congratulations on the birth of Rev. Cheryln Gates grandchild!



Emily Gates Margolis and her husband, Seth welcome Bennett Morris Margolis, born Sept. 24 at 10:40 am, 8.7 pounds, 20" long.

SWEETSOUNDS VII

An evening of entertainment and desserts

Saturday October 6,

2012 7:00 PM

**Christ Lutheran Church
113 Union Street, Natick**

***A BENEFIT CONCERT TO HELP
HOMELESS
FAMILIES IN FAMILY PROMISE
METROWEST***

***PROCEEDS PROVIDE DIRECT
FAMILY & CHILDREN'S
SERVICES: DAYCARE,
COUNSELING, TRAINING***

\$25 SUGGESTED FREE WILL OFFERING AT DOOR

Missions 2012/2013 Goals and Objectives

October 2012

Habitat for Humanity (goal raise \$1000)

Weekly Fundraisers

Pumpkin Patch

Balloon Pop

- 25 balloons with prizes
- 1 for \$10 and 3 for \$25

Buy a board and sign for Habitat house

- \$5 per signature

Guess the Candy Corns

- 50 cents per guess or 3 guesses for a \$1

Will be at all October Coffee Hours with prizes at the end of the month

Anton's Coat Drive Oct 1-Jan 1

November 2012

Coffee Hour Veterans

Anton's Coat Drive Oct 1-Jan 1

December 2012

Angel Tree

Anton's Coat Drive Oct 1-Jan 1

January 2013

Coat Collection Drop off

Collect food for Natick Food Pantry

Coffee Hour Habitat

February 2013

Dress for Success (Feb-March)

Coffee Hour raise money for Fuel Assistance
for Natick Service Council

March 2013

Dress for Success (Feb-March)

Coffee Hour raise money for Fuel Assist.
for Natick Service Council

April 2013

Habitat Build

Coffee Hour (open)

May 2013 Annual Missions Picnic

Fund raiser for Fisk Youth and Family Promise
Schools Supplies for fall

June 2013

Coffee Hour Open

Natick Open Door Dinner

July/August assist with Family Promise

Sunday School – All Ages – 9:20 a.m.



The Missions Commission are selling PUMPKINS

with proceeds going to:

Habitat for Humanity

Pumpkins are only \$10 each and are large
in size.

Orders need to be pre-paid and given to
Heather Oluwole.

Pick up is October 14th immediately
following Worship.



Name _____

of pumpkins wanted _____

Total enclosed _____



Worship Service Participants and Nursery Volunteers for October



Greeters

Greeters

Oct 7 – TBA
Oct 14– United Methodist Women
Oct 21 – TBA
Oct 28– Gary & Marcia Hoyt

Acolytes

Oct 7 – Rose C.
Oct 14– Kelli G.
Oct 21 – Sarah F.
Oct 28– Rose C.

Cross bearer

Matt S.
Will S.
Ashley S.
Thom T.

Liturgists

Oct 7 – Zachary Gates
Oct 14–Elizabeth Coates
Oct 21 – Julia Acquaaah-Harrison
Oct 28– Barbara Beekman



Communion Servers

October 7- Zachary & Sarah Gates

Nursery – 9:00am during Sunday School Hour

Oct 7 – Debbie F. & Jennifer G.
Oct 14–Jennifer F. & Jennifer G.
Oct 21 – Debbie F. & Jennifer G.
Oct 28– Jennifer F. & Jennifer G.

Nursery – 10:30am during Worship

Oct 7 – Scott & Jennifer F.
Oct 14– Crystal M. & Pat P.
Oct 21 – Sarah G. & Heather O.
Oct 28– Janis C. & Carol S.



Coffee Hour Hosts for the Month of October:

The



Missions Commission