

The Messenger

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

October 2013

Welcome from Pastor Rick Black

I am thrilled to be able to spend the next nine months as pastor at Fisk. I have been enjoying retirement for the past several years, and it took an opportunity as exciting as this one to get me to want to be back in the local church. Perhaps a few words about my background would be helpful.

I am originally from Medford where I went to high school and where I fell in love with my wife, Janice. Yes, we were high school sweethearts and have been married for 48 years. We have three children and six grandchildren who have been occupying a good bit of our retirement time and energy. I was educated at Bowdoin, Harvard, and Brown Universities and served as a pastor in local churches in Providence, Winthrop, Acton, Worcester, and Wilmington. I have also been active in the Annual Conference on a variety of committees and boards. From 1993 to 2002, I left the local church and was a principal in a management consulting firm headquartered in Kendall Square, Cambridge, MA. There I met some great folks and was offered extensive training in strategy development and organizational transformation. I returned to the local church and retired from Wilmington in 2007.

My primary focus has always been on spiritual renewal of individuals and churches, though I was active in a number of social projects including extensive work in Nicaragua and inner city ministries. To me, social action and spiritual renewal are two sides of the same coin- that is, being faithful to God's call.

I hope to bring enthusiasm, excitement, and fun to the work of "being the church" here in Natick. Let's get to work!

Giving Thanks and Moving Forward, by Dorothy Phillips

We all felt the stress of transition, of not having a pastor at the helm, during September. Yet, I must testify that God has *got* this transition! I thank everyone who replied positively to the stress calls and prayed continuously during the past few weeks; we did not miss a beat (at least noticeably miss) for worship services and special services. Many of you do not get a chance to speak with our Administrative Assistant, but Judy Bortolotti stood tall behind the scenes. I give God thanks for all of you.

"Lord, I want to be free of the pressure to do great things in the world by being great in doing small things for Thee."

Marian Wright Edelman

On Tuesday, October 1, 2013 we welcome our pastor, Rev. Richard Black. We have a strategic plan for a healthy church to help guide these nine months that he will be with us. With the support of God and His son Jesus, we will move closer to our goal for a healthy church during this period.

Lay Leader, Dorothy J. Phillips

Staff of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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

How to reach us:

Phone: (508) 653-1674 **Fax: (508) 655-0587**

Pastor Rick's Email: TBA

Cheryln's Email: deacongates@gmail.com

Deanna's Email: DandJLA@gmail.com

Eric's Email: emazonson@verizon.net

Church/Judy's Email: fiskumc@aol.com

Church Website: www.fiskumc.org

The church office is open Monday, Wednesday,
Thursday and Friday from 8:30am – 1:30pm



Worship Service Participants and Nursery Volunteers for October



Greeters

Greeters

Oct 6 – Barbara Miller & Judy Maloney
Oct 13– Debi Henry & Jane Wilson
Oct 20 – The Garrant Family
Oct 27– Step-Up & Pop- Up Kids

Acolytes

Oct 6 – Rose Currie
Oct 13– Kelli Garrant
Oct 20 – Sarah French
Oct 27– Rose Currie



Liturgists

Oct 6 – Rev. Cheryl Gates
Oct 13– Dorothy Phillips
Oct 20 – Mark Owen
Oct 27– Susan Carney



Communion Servers

October 6- Jim and Dorothy Phillips



COME TO THE CONCERT!

On November 8th at 7:30 Fisk will be presenting our own Eric Mazonson's good friend and colleague, violinist Alexey Shabalin, in concert with Eric, performing a program of classics by Bach, Mozart and Brahms. Those of you who were present at Christmas Eve two years ago will remember Mr. Shabalin's wonderful playing. Donations will be gratefully accepted, with all proceeds going to the church's general fund. A reception will follow the recital.

Alexey Shabalin has been Music Director and Symphony Conductor of the Rhode Island Philharmonic Youth Orchestras since 2003. Having expanded and improved under his leadership, the ensemble performed in Carnegie Hall in May, 2005. He also founded and conducts the Rhode Island Philharmonic Youth Soloists, an advanced chamber orchestra. Mr. Shabalin directs orchestral activities at Providence College and Rhode Island College, coaches chamber music at Brown University and The Rhode Island Philharmonic Music School and teaches violin privately and at The Music School.

Active as a solo recitalist and chamber player, his busy concert schedule has taken him around the world. Mr. Shabalin graduated from Moscow Conservatory in 1995, having studied with Professors Igor Besrodny and Alexander Melkinov. As a student he won third prize in the Soviet national string quartet competition in 1991. Also in 1991, he was a semi-finalist in the International Shostakovich Chamber Music Competition.

From 1992 to 1996, Shabalin toured with the world-renowned Moscow Soloists Chamber Orchestra, conducted by famed violist Yuri Bashmet.

The Boston Globe called him "a very gifted and unusually personal violinist," and praised his playing for projecting a certain aristocratic air that is solidly *supported by technique and musicality.*"

Currently he is a member of the first violin section of the Rhode Island Philharmonic Orchestra.



Our semi-annual Yard Sale for Missions!
October 19 8:30am – 12 noon
Clean out your garages, cellars,
attics and closets.

We sell almost anything except clothes, ski equipment, and old electronics (TVs, computers etc.) We will take some furniture...but with the provision that if it does not sell you take it back...we do not have transportation or a way to dispose of large items.

All the money raised goes to Missions—locally and beyond. Help us help others while helping yourself clean out. Items may be brought to the church and left in current Youth Room any time after October 15.



If you would like to help arrange items or sell at the sale...we welcome you!



Call Janis Cail or Barbara Beekman or the church office.



ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE

The Annual Charge Conference of the Church will be **Thursday, October 24th 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 Thursday, October 3rd 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 31 @ 8:30am

Missions:

Thank you to those that participated in our 2nd annual Pumpkin Fundraiser! The pumpkins can be picked up on Sept. 29th and Oct. 6th. See Heather Oluwale or Michelle Drolet if you didn't get your order in.



We might have a few left over to sell you. You may leave a message in the church office if you don't see one of us in church.



Anton's Cleaners **Coats for Kids Drive - Oct. 14th-Jan. 11th** - Please bring your unwanted coats, in any size, good condition and we will deliver the coats to Anton's Cleaners. Anton's

cleans these coats and distributes them to needy organizations throughout the Boston area and Massachusetts. Their goal is to serve 66,000 people this winter. Coats can be from infant size through adults. Please no big stains, rips, tears or broken zippers. Think about a coat you would give to a friend. Thank you for your support! ***You may bring the coats to the bin outside the church office. **





United Methodist Women

We have a busy two months ahead...supporting our mission of helping women, children and youth.

October 5--We will be traveling to Leominster to fellowship with other UMWomen and fill Christmas Stockings for the underserved children of the western mountains of Maine. Sherry Culver will be elected as the District President of Central MA District UMW. Congratulations Sherry! We are proud of you! Want to join us...call Janis Cail for rides and registration ASAP.



October 19 Yard Sale (see another page for the article)^h

October 26--We will travel to Milton MA for the Annual Fall Gathering of ALL Conference United Methodist Women. Come!



November 5—Our women meet at Fisk and will hear a speaker from Safe Havens—a women's shelter for victims of Domestic Abuse. Tuesday at 7:30pm.

November 16 is only 46 days away! It is FAIR Day.

Can you do a craft or sew something that will sell... at the Fair? Do you bake or cook something that someone else would buy...at the Fair? Do plan to ask your hairdresser, manicurist, favorite restaurant owner, or anyone you come in contact with for a Gift Certificate for the Auction.,,at the Fair. Come for lobster rolls, homemade soup and do some shopping...at the Fair. We are adding a Vintage Room—some good used clothing (women's and children's), old collectibles, and antiques. Good-as-New items, books, games and toys are welcome.

Prayer Shawl / Fair projects continues on Wednesday mornings at 10am.



ALL women interested in Missions—particularly women, children and youth are strongly encouraged to attend any of these events.

Call Debbie Friscino or the church office.

Natick Food Pantry

More than one way to help!

1. **Continue** to bring in your food donations. They can be left in the bin opposite the church office. Regular needs are—peanut butter, jelly, Hamburger Helper type packages, Rice Pilaf, beef stew, crackers, juice, paper towels etc. You can also bring them directly to the Food Pantry during business hours.
2. **Volunteer** to bag groceries for the families. Fisk staffs the pantry on the second Thursday each month. You need to be there just before 5:00pm and you are finished at 8pm. In those three hours you have helped distribute food to 12 families (they have appointments) and will help them feed their families for another few days or a week.
3. **Just call** Gary or Marcia Hoyt and we will put you on the schedule. It is “neighbor helping neighbor.” We are trying to form 4 teams of 2 people. So you would only serve every 3 or 4 months.



**Natick Food Pantry is located in
the “old Coolidge Jr. High”
2 Webster St. Natick
on the corner of Cottage St.**

Gary and Marcia Hoyt 508.655.0077

Starbucks



Did you know that Fisk has a partnership with the Drive-thru Starbucks on Route 9?

Well we do and we need your help to have this run smoothly!

Twice a week they distribute their unsold pastries and goodies to Fisk---so that we in turn can help others.

- ➡ Wednesdays and Sundays we need someone to go to the Drive-thru and pick up their bins of baked goods. (can be anywhere between 1 to 4 bins).
- ➡ They are brought to Fisk and bagged in zip lock bags for various shelters and senior programs in the area. Some of the shelters come to pick up the donations and others we deliver to them.
- ➡ The bins are washed out and returned to Starbucks. Starbucks likes to have the bins back in an hour or two.

Are you able to do any one or more of these steps?

Call Judy in the church office 508.653.1674
or Marcia Hoyt 508.655.0077

Change is good! What is happening?

One of the goals of the **Visioning Committee** is to make the building look new and refreshed and change some room use. All of this is to be more family friendly and focus on young families with children—to grow and sustain our church.

Last year we hired a professional to care for the nursery children—a familiar face each week, certified teacher, with first aid training. We hope you have met Christine, she is a lovely woman and is a great caregiver for our children.

We also cleaned out some of the toys, decorated the walls with a Noah's Ark mural etc. More updates to come!



Now we are moving on! The current Youth Room will become a classroom for pre-K thru Grade 1. We have ordered new furniture for the children, rugs for the floors, and age-appropriate teaching tools—to make for a better learning experience. We also anticipate beginning a Children's Church program.

The YOUTH are moving to the Library...wonder what they will do to make it "theirs." Paint? Posters?

The Library books are being condensed and re-located in the office next to the current library (shared space for staff).

Everyone is excited about these moves. What does it have to do with you? Well you will have the opportunity to take and use some of the books being culled from the library shelves. They will be at Time for Fellowship in Whipple Hall on Sundays and/or on a table in the hall. Help yourself!

Visioning Committee: Marcia Hoyt, Dorothy Phillips, Barbara Beekman, Zachary Gates, Thom Townsend, Mike Bruns and Deborah Hernandez.

Guess who's coming to dinner?

Well, we hope it is YOU!

We are beginning the Dinners for 7 groups again. This is a great opportunity to join with other Fisk people---singles and couples—for a casual dinner in one of your homes. Not everyone needs to host a dinner, but it is the expectation that each person will contribute a dish to the dinner. You may choose to host at Fisk, if that works better for you.

The host will usually do the meat and others will bring veggies, salads or dessert...this is decided amongst the group.

We hope that each group will meet three times (November, December and January) together and then we will re-shuffle the names and hopefully add more interested people.



 **SIGN UP NOW**

There is a clipboard on the bulletin board by the water cooler. Just add your name, phone / email before October 20 and we'll contact you by the end of October.

The first gathering should be in November, enjoy a wonderful fall dinner together.

Questions: Marcia Hoyt 508.655.0077

Our UMW received this note:

Dear Church Women of the Fisk United Methodist Church,
On behalf of the Haiti Micah Project, let me express my sincere gratitude and sheer sense of amazement at the wonderful little dresses you created! How incredibly precious, each and every one!!! My son-in-law's brother is the Episcopal Churches liaison to Haiti and the founder of the Micah Project in Haiti. His organization includes an orphanage and a school and for more than 400 children. Clearly your dresses are deeply needed and appreciated.

Blessings,

Susan Duncan (Village Church in Wellesley)



Finance Update – October 2013

The fall season is a beautiful reminder of God's many gifts to us, and our obligation as good stewards to give back a portion of that bounty. Financially, we continue to find ourselves behind our plan after eight months. The faithful support of you -the congregation - continues to be a blessing, but the summer months of vacations and family times have slowed the giving which is vital to our ministries. As a result we are spending wisely, and carefully managing our resources:

- Your financial support is 9% below Budget, through August,
- We are spending less than our budgeted expenses to compensate, but expenses continue,
- We continue to pray for improvements in our financial position.

We would urge you to review your Statement of Giving which you will receive in mid-October, and make every effort to catch up on your commitment to Fisk's ministries. If you have not given in the past, we would urge you to consider supporting our ministries. 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 2013.

The ministries of Fisk touch so many people in so many ways. As we enter the fall, 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), 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.

Update on Fisk Church Strategic Health Plan by Dorothy Phillips, Lay Leader

Goal of Fisk Health Plan: 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 Visioning Team reviewed the progress on the tactics for each phase of the program in September; an update on Phases I and II are in the table below.

Table: Status in 2013 for Phase I and II of Healthy Church Strategic Plan

Phase I: Children Tactics	STATUS
Easter Egg Hunt	Blessed with over 200 children attending.
Natick Farmer's Market on Saturday mornings	May 4, Sept. 7 and Natick Day Sept. 21. UMCOR Health Kits assembled by families on latter two Saturdays.
Additional children's community activity for June TBD	Family Comedy Night, May 31; Ice cream social for ingathering of UMCOR Health kits on Oct 6
Sunday School	Sunday school kick-off on Spirit Sunday Sept. 15; a new class added. Changes in location of some classes and children church in process
Paid nursery care	One paid staff on board and one more to be hired shortly
Vacation Bible School	Canceled 2013; plans for 2014 initiated
Phase II: Youth and Young Adult Tactics	
Confirmation program	Being planned for 2013-2014
Young adult Sunday school <30	To be determined (TBD)
Youth sports	Part of Friday evenings
Evening program (ex. Friday night movie nights with food and more)	Starting October 2013; Refer to related article from Youth Ministers Deanna and Josh
Resume writing	TBD
Book club	TBD

A Note From Pastor Mark – September 18, 2013

Dear Friends,

It seems amazing that a week has passed since my surgery in Boston. Everything has gone very well. I did spend one extra night at the hospital because of the pain I was experiencing but other than that, things have gone well indeed. I am able to walk pretty well but sleep a great deal because of the drugs I am taking.

PT will begin in a few weeks but full recovery is months away. The hope, of course, is that I will be able to walk much better than before and with far less pain. I want you to know that I have felt your presence in prayer for me and that the Lord has been with me all along the way.

Perhaps it sounds unbelievable that a person can approach surgery without fear but honestly, I can tell you it is true: When the Lord is with you, you trust that whatever may happen, you will be all right. I am grateful for God's constant mercy and for your prayer for me. Best to all and in Jesus' name, I wish you peace and joy.

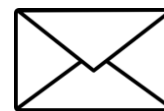
Your friend,

Mark Goad

UPDATED NOTE from Pastor Mark: September 26th

I am doing well - although it is very odd to be told you cannot bend your back or turn from side to side for at least 3 months! Just let me say: That is a very limiting situation to find myself in.

I think often of the Fisk folks and have received many cards and good wishes. I know you are praying for me, as I am for you. Best to everyone. **Mark**



A note from the Stinson family:

The Stinson family would like to thank the church for the many letters and emails we have received after the passing of Ashley's father. Your kindness has meant a lot to us.

Evangelism Ministry



DRUM ROLL PLEASE !!!!!

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you to all those who helped make the Emergency Health Kits ministry a success. We have 125 kits and counting!!

Health Kit Ice Cream Social

WHY? Thank you for your support.

WHERE? Whipple Hall - Fisk

WHEN? Sunday, October 6, 2013 3p.m.- 4 p.m.

COST? A completed emergency health kit or items for the kits.



(Health Kit Items: 1 clear gallon Ziplock bag to put all items in - 1 washcloth - 1 hand towel (no kitchen towels) 15" x 25" up to 17" x 27" - 1 bath size bar of soap in wrapper (3 oz. and up) - 1 comb (large and sturdy - not pocket sized) - 1 fingernail clippers (no toenail clippers) - 6 band-aids)

Do you enjoy meeting with friends and new people after church service? Do you enjoy snacks? Do you enjoy beverages? Time of Fellowship (a.k.a. Coffee Hour) will have a new format as of October.

We are in need of assistance. Would you be able to:



*Set-up or take down a few tables and chairs

*Put out simple fare

*Host a Sunday

*Coordinate those who might take one or more jobs from this list

The Evangelism Ministry will, each Sunday, make available the following:

- coffee /tea/ juice
- cream/ sugar
- paper products

Please give prayerful consideration as to how you might help to continue this vital ministry.

Your Evangelism Ministry,

Zachary Gates, Barbara Beekman, Ken Reynolds,

Pat Price, Gerry Billingsly, Mark Owen

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

*Connecting to Christ through
Communion and Community*

Sunday, OCTOBER 6, 2013



Free I am,

Free I'll be

When Jesus on a cloud

Comes for me.

Thank you, Lord, for

Finding me and loving most tenderly.

I'll rise up and partake of the cup,

At the feet of Jesus, and the

light of God

I humble.

By Diane O'Loughlin

"Changing One Life At A Time!" 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

Family Promise: Two Notes of Appreciation – from Debbie Friscino

Dear Deb,

As your host weeks for Family Promise Metrowest come to a close, I want to thank all the volunteers for your gracious hospitality to our guest families. Organizing two weeks of hosting takes immeasurable time, but no more so than in the summer when so many are on vacation. Nonetheless, with contributions from your congregation, Needham, Cohituate, Deb Hastings' fellow Lions Club members, and volunteers from the wider community, you provided all that our guests could need and more. They told me multiple times how "at home" they felt during their two weeks with you.

I am grateful for the time I had with you on Friday to experience your program first hand: the comfortable, inviting rooms, lively conversations with hosts and guests and the fun that "Block Head" engenders. Please extend to all my appreciation for your commitment to our mission. We could not do what we do without you.

With deepest thanks,
Judy

*Judy Mongiardo
Network Coordinator
Family Promise Metrowest*

From the Family Promise Metrowest September Newsletter:

Dear Family Promise and Volunteers,

It is from my deepest gratitude that I and my daughter De Leica write you today. On June 12th of this year, my daughter and I found ourselves in a very unfortunate situation that forced us to leave our home unprepared and left us in a dire situation, we were homeless!

In life, we stroll by homeless people and so often seem to become immune to their status in our society, never thinking that one day that would be me. I never thought that I, a hard working middle aged man, would join their ranks with a six year old precious little girl. After researching my options for help, it was immediately apparent that I was not looking for a hand out, but a hand up. I felt my pride sink into my stomach when I walked into the Department of Transitional Assistance to ask for help. Unknowing to me, I found out that my daughter and I did not fit the criteria for the help they provided. After knowing this news, I

was pained greatly as I walked out with my daughter as I did not know where we would sleep that night.

However, I did receive a list of shelters to call from the DTA. That was where I received not only the number for Family Promise but a warm welcoming voice on the other end of the phone. It was immediately apparent that the voice on the other end was genuinely concerned. She asked me several questions and assured me that she would speak to her director and see if they could help. I went to bed that night with my daughter at my side but also with a glimmer of hope.

We were called in for an interview and the following day the director and the case manager welcomed my daughter and I into the program. We were given everything my family needed from the moment we arrived. After one initial welcoming into the center we went to our first church to be hosted for the week. I cannot put into words the gratitude my daughter and I feel for all the volunteers that take their time and give so freely of themselves, not only my family but so many others. All of you and the services you provide have given my daughter and me the opportunity to pick ourselves up while maintaining a sense of dignity and respect while getting back on track.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely let everyone know that what you all do is very much appreciated, not only by my daughter and me but from the people that love us dearly but were not in a situation to help. Your kindness and service is selfless and giving and we will be forever grateful. My daughter and I move into our new apartment on August 15th and it's because of all the wonderful service all of you have provided for me and my family as well as so many others. You are truly the wheel the makes this wonderful program turn.

We thank you all and may GOD be with you,
Sincerely,

Anthony & De Leicia

A Prayer for our Sunday School, by Susan Carney

Please pray this a few times this month.... We know and respect the power of prayer.

Thank you Lord for our church school.

Bless the words of the teachers and the hearts of the students both young and older.

We ask that the lessons that are delivered at Fisk be acceptable in your sight and that they will be carried into the week.

Accept our gratitude for your guidance. Amen

Greetings from UMYF and your Youth Ministers,



UMYF has started!

UMYF is up and running for the year! Please consider attending Sunday School with us at 9:20am. We will then head to worship together and following worship we will have lunch and fellowship from 12pm-2pm. We hope to see you there!!

Open Gym Night

We are excited to hold the first Open Gym Night this month! This event will run from 7-10 pm. It will be a time to hang out with other youth in the area, fellowship, and play some games. It will also provide a place for youth to go on a Friday night. **The first Open Gym Night will happen on October 25.** Please mark your calendars and invite some friends!!

October Schedule of Events

October 6- Sunday School 9:20
Youth Group 12-2

October 13- Sunday School 9:20
Youth Group 12-2

October 19-Youth Group Fall Retreat (TBD)

October 20- Sunday School 9:20
No Youth Group

Friday, October 25- OPEN GYM NIGHT!! 7-10 p.m.

October 27- Sunday School 9:20
Youth Group 12-2

-Joshua and Deanna Leedy-Andreozzi, Youth Ministers-