

The Messenger

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

September 2012

Reflections from Pastor Mark

“*God is good!*” Bishop Weaver would call out, and we would answer from the conference floor “*All the time!*”

“*All the time,*” he’d continue, and we answered back, “*God is good!*” The bishop was right too: God is good, *all the time*. As the 100th Psalm affirms:

*The goodness of the Lord is beyond comprehension,
and his deep love endures forever.*

The joy of being a Christian is living in awareness of God’s goodness and love. And that joy is made complete by sharing that love with others through acts of kindness, peacemaking, justice-building and sharing of our abundance. This is what we do at Fisk Memorial: We say in words and deeds: *God is good – all the time!* Praise God that we know this is true.

It’s not yet the end of the summer, but fall is coming fast and there is a lot to look forward to; in particular, I remind you of these:

- *Natick Days, Saturday, September 8, 11am-4pm:* We will be celebrating missions this year and sharing the good news with Natick. Come on down and enjoy!

- *Spirit Sunday, September 9:* Think of it as “Welcome back Sunday!” The morning begins with breakfast for the congregation at 9:10am. Following our meal together, we will celebrate God’s love in a rousing Worship Service at 10:30.
- *Sunday School start-up, September 16:* All classes begin. I will be teaching a class for adults using Adam Hamilton’s terrific book, *Enough*. (It’s about getting your priorities straight).

We are looking forward to a great fall at Fisk Memorial UMC, and I’m looking forward to seeing you! And don’t forget: *God is good – all the time!*

*Peace and joy!,
Pastor Mark*

Staff of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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

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Church Website: www.fiskumc.org	

Spirit

Sunday

September 9 at 9:30am

Join us for a full Breakfast for everyone. This is your chance to catch-up with those you may not have seen over the summer months. We will introduce some activities happening in the next church season. Hear about plans we have to show Natick “who we are” and “what we are about.”

Chef-John Gates

Menu to include: pancakes, sausages, egg casseroles, cereals, yogurt, muffins, fresh fruit and more—oh, yes coffee and juice.



Would you like to help? Set-up? Washing dishes?

Baking muffins?

Call Marcia Hoyt 655-0077

Your Council of Ministries...which consists of the chairpersons of all of the programming committees of the church...is hosting this event for all to enjoy. Come and enjoy breakfast and the wonderful fellowship. Sunday School classes begin next week.



Please call the office anytime to register for Sunday School. We would like infants to adults to register but if you do not get a chance to ...join us any Sunday at 9:10am.

As it stands now, we have a nursery room, a preschool thru grade 1 class, a grade 2 thru grade 5 class, and a middle and high school class. There is also an adults' class being taught by Pastor Mark.

Short term classes may be added as well as classes that will meet during the week. So please watch for information on our website (Thanks Sherry!!)

We look forward to a worthwhile and blessed Sunday School year .

Questions ? Would you like to volunteer for a few weeks or as a sub?
Call or email Susan Carney 508-479-3959 susanjcarney@gmail.com



Walking Group

Let's face itwe are all too busy to make a total commitment to another group . This is a drop- in group that will walk twice a week --- once on Friday morning at 7:30am and then on Saturday morning at 8:00am .

I will do my best to be there most of the time. We might be a group that walks around the parking lot or walks in the neighborhoods or heads for Dunkin' Donuts downtown for a hot or cold drink.

God calls us to fellowship and to care for ourselves....so here we go . This starts the first week in September. Hope to not be alone ☺ --- Susan Carney





We had a successful week thanks to the efforts and positive attitudes of many. Over 30 students attended during the week and we learned lots from them. They were a blessing!

They left with chimes of "I will see you next year." and so there looks like there will be a VBS 2013.

I have already purchased a curriculum that I did not use this year but it looks very good and if someone would like to look at it and see if being the director feels right – that would be great.

Many, many thanks to everyone that helped this summer! I feel honored to have worked with each of you. May God bless our efforts (He already has in so many ways). S. Carney

October Messenger Deadline- September 24



Fall Potluck Dinner

Gather for a dinner with your Fisk friends. Just bring a casserole, salad or dessert to serve 6-8. We are hoping to have a great crowd to kick-off the Fall.



Speaker: Rev. Mark Goad

We have asked Pastor Mark to just "talk to us about his family, his life, his journey, his hobbies or whatever he chooses to share with us."



**Tuesday-September 11, at
7:00pm**

Sponsored by UMM and UMW for the adult Fisk friends and members



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.

Lift Up Your Voice and Sing!



Choir is about to start up again! The first choir Sunday will be September 9, and the first Thursday night rehearsal will be September 13. We work hard, but we also have fun, and the pay-off is the satisfaction that comes from ministering with music. Rehearsals take place from 7:30pm to 9:00pm on Thursdays, and before the service at 9:15am (sometimes 9:30am) on Sundays.

Please join us!

---Eric Mazonson, Choir Director---



Prayers and Bears

*Hymns sung, and meals made and bears, oh my!
What is a prayer bear?*

It is a tangible gift of God's love and Fisk Memorial's compassion for anyone who is in need. Our bears carry prayers to those who are sick, stressed, struggling, lonely or grieving. All of the bears are tagged and are available to anyone. Bears are located in a basket in the back of the sanctuary. For more information, please contact Pat Price, or any member of the Evangelism Commission.

Mission Education Event

Open to the public

Saturday, September 22, 2012

At Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

We are offering three studies led by very qualified study leaders. These studies motivate, inform, and enrich our knowledge. Come and learn. Teens and all adult populations are welcome.



1. Haiti-Rev. Garvin Warden
2. Poverty-Lucie Fortier and Marie MacDougall
3. Immigration and the Bible-Rev. Sharon Jones

The Poverty information will be taught in three 90 minute blocks of time. The other two subjects will be offered in two 90 minute sessions. You will have the opportunity to participate in one 90 minute session of each subject, if you choose.

Registration	9:30am (with coffee and breads)
Session I	10:00-11:30am
Lunch	11:40-12:15pm
Session II	12:20 - 1:50pm
Session III	2:00 - 3:30pm
Closing	3:35 - 3:45pm

Registrations by September 17, 2012

Name _____

Topic(s) of choice _____

Child Care needed? (ages of children) _____

Mission Education Event cost including lunch is \$20.00 –
*Checks payable to: **Fisk UMW***
(leave in the office or mail to Sherry Culver)

Organized by Community UMC of Wayland MA and Fisk Memorial UMC of Natick MA for you and **anyone** interested in these topics...one, two or all three.

Laity Lines From Our Lay Leader
“Be strong and courageous....for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Twenty Questions! What “new” commandment does Jesus give His disciples in John 13:34? If you could add one new commandment for the world, what would the 11th commandment be? The disciple Peter was also known as Simon. Peter means rock. What does Simon mean? The resurrected Christ appeared to two people walking on a road to a town that began with the letter “E”. What is the name of this town? The baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist took place where? (Don’t get wet!) (Matthew 2:13-17) What was the last kind/type of salad that you ate? Did you leave the Commonwealth of Massachusetts this summer? What book did you read this summer? What was the last ice cream flavor that you ate? If you could have one “super power”, what would that power be? If you could make a 30-second speech to the entire world, what would you say? What are the three “nevers” in your life? What in life is beautiful to you? What in the world is up with my Red Sox? What do all of the numbers in your telephone number add up to – including your area code? Where do you find inspiration? What could you say was a defining moment for you? What is the meaning of peace to you? Are you ready?

BIBLES, BAGELS AND BANANAS! All adults and youth in grades 6-12 are invited to a special Sunday School class on September 2nd in Ogle Parlor. Bring your own personal Bible and share your own Bible story. What scriptures have you highlighted? What notes, bulletins, and special pieces of paper are in there? Who gave you that Bible? Do you study and share with a group or with someone with this Bible? All are welcome! Class begins at 9:10 a.m.



Get Involved! There are many ways to get involved in the ministries and service activities of Fisk Memorial! Christian Education? Teach! Attend a class or be involved in a small group study. Fellowship? All women are invited to be a part of our United Methodist Women unit and all men are invited to be a part of our United Methodist Men unit. Youth in grades 6-12, United Methodist Youth Fellowship. Step-Up Kids are kids in

grades 3 through 5. Pop-Up Kids are kids that are in Pre-K through Grade 2. Do your talents and gifts shine for God’s glory in keeping our building clean inside and out? Do you know which end of a hammer or a broom to use? Do you like to volunteer in the church office by helping with mailings or being a holy folder for the bulletin or newsletter? Can you sing in the sanctuary as well as the shower? Make a meal? Pray for someone? Greet? Hand out nametags? Usher? Acolyte? Hospitality? Can you make coffee? Missions – Outreach? Visit one in the hospital or at their home? Donate flowers in honor or in memory of someone? Ministry of Caring? Serve on a committee? Where at Fisk in this new church year will your talents and gifts find your serving God?



*God’s Blessings, My Prayers,
Debi*

**Quarterly Fellowship Luncheon
Mission Moments and Memories
Casserole Cook-Off
Sunday, September 30, 2012**



The third Quarterly Fellowship Luncheon will be held on Sunday, September 30 in Whipple Hall – 12 noon!
Come and listen to our youth and adults who went on the U. M. Army Mission Trip to New Jersey in June.

Would you like to bring/share your favorite – family specialty "casserole" with your church family?

Sign-up sheets are located in Whipple Hall during Coffee Hour or in the Choir Room, Youth Room or Church Office all the time – 24/7! We hope you can be with us!

Liturgist Training

Sunday, September 23rd - 12 p.m.

All who wish to serve as a liturgist in our worship services are invited to a training/discussion session in Ogle Parlor with Pastor Mark. Even if you have served as liturgist, you are welcome to attend and share your experiences. This training will include being shown how to use our microphone and sound system, idea suggestions on how to prepare before Sunday worship, practice and preparation, how to gather information and make announcements. Please contact Judy in the church office if you will be attending.

Evangelism Commission

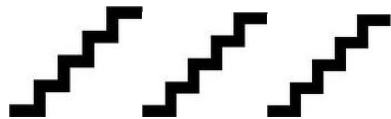


Natick Days – Saturday, September 8th

Natick Center – Rtes. 27 & 135 - 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fisk Memorial UMC will have a booth at the Natick Days event on Natick Common on Saturday, September 8th. Volunteers are needed throughout the day. We will be sharing our spirit and our mission/outreach activities with the community. Please sign up on the sheet hanging on the Evangelism Committee bulletin board.. Join us as we share the Gospel and Fisk with the community!

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



Sunday, September 30

12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Fellowship Luncheon

“On your Mark, Get Set, Grow!”



Finance Update – September 2012

Welcome back to a fall season of excitement here at Fisk. Financially, we continue on “Plan” after seven 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 June update:

- Your financial support is within 2-3% of Budget through July, down somewhat from May
- 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.

Youth Group

It seems incredible to me that the beginning of the school year is right around the summer. This summer has been a wonderful time of rest and rejuvenation for Josh and for me. We've made many trips to Maine, New Hampshire, and Connecticut to visit with friends and family. I started a Ph.D. program at Lesley University and very excited with where these studies will lead. We've moved to Medford and are excited to be settling into a new place. I hope your summers have been equally full of fun and that you are looking forward to heading back to regular work and school schedules. As you head back I want to provide you with some scripture to encourage you in your dealings with others at school and at work.

Count your blessings each and every day! "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ." Ephesians 1:3

Be sensitive to others and remember to pick out the good qualities in everyone! "Do not judge, or you too will be judged." Matthew 7:1

Remember to be flexible as things may not always go your way. God still has a plan! "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28

Everyone needs a hug! "Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God." 1 John 4:7

Stick with it! You can accomplish anything! "I can do all this through him who gives me strength." Philippians 4:13

Josh and I look forward to seeing you as Sunday School and Youth Group begin again this month! God Bless!

Deanna and Josh

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September 9 Spirit Day Breakfast, Church, Youth Group Pool Party

September 16 Sunday School, Church, Youth Group

September 23 Sunday School, Church, Youth Group and Liturgist Training

September 30 Sunday School, Youth Group, Quarterly Luncheon and Youth Group Mission Share



Saturday - September 29, 2012
8:30am – 12:00noon

This is a rain or shine event . We have plenty of work to do inside and outside to maintain our church and its' grounds.

Folks have been busy both inside and out during the summer and this does not go unnoticed . How nice that the flowers by our sign in the front have been maintained bushes cut wasps and hornets battled ... painting done and on and on

Bring whatever materials you may need and we will have some general supplies there ... thanks in advance for your efforts.

Tom Carney - Chair of Trustees

Natick Days

This is a “BIG day in town.” Have you ever attended? Many, many groups, organizations, sports teams, churches etc. show the town WHAT THEY ARE ABOUT. Fisk has participated for a few years.

This year we decided to highlight some of the Mission projects we are involved in—and making it interactive. At the Women’s Church Retreat in July we began a new and exciting project. Little Dresses for Africa—these are little colorful dresses for girls in Africa, Haiti, Nicaragua or where ever little girls need to be reminded that they are special and loved.

Have you noticed the dresses on the UMW bulletin Board? We have more than 40-50 dresses ready to be sent off sometime this fall.

Well, at Natick Days, **September 8th** we are hoping to have access to electricity and **SEW ON THE COMMON!** Come and help make a dress...sew a few seams, just visit, explain our project...



Will you help with the setting up? (about 9:30-11am)

Can you be available to talk to visitors about our church?

Are you able to sew? (anytime between 11-4pm)

Can you help clean-up and take down the display? (3:30-4pm)

See Marcia Hoyt or Zach Gates