

The Messenger

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

September 2013

Reflections from Pastor Mark

Last things are always the beginning of something new. That's obvious enough (and true, we Christians believe, even when a person dies). This is the last Pastor's Page I will write for the *Messenger* and that fact marks the beginning of something new in my life and yours.

You have heard that I have asked for incapacity leave as of September 1 and will undergo surgery on my back at Brigham and Women's Hospital on the 11th of September. Following that surgery, I will be living in Margaret's parsonage in Andover. The recovery time from the surgery will be 3-4 months followed by many more months of intensive physical therapy. Margaret and I have hopes that the surgery will vastly improve my physical well-being. That is something to look forward to!



Taking pastoral responsibilities at Fisk will be an interim pastor (as of this writing not yet announced) whom the bishop expects will serve through the conference year. At that time, Fisk will receive the bishop's appointment of a new pastor chosen during the regular appointment season. (All of that, let me say, is the way things are intended to go. There is every reason to expect that this is just the way things will play out.)

This situation has taken us all by surprise. Although I have been aware of my increasing physical incapacity for several months, I did not expect to have to leave my appointment, and there was no reason for you to expect it either. I feel a deep sadness leaving you. Some of you have expressed similar feelings, and I am grateful for your affection and concern. I want you to know how much I have enjoyed serving Fisk Memorial, getting to know so many of you, and just the sheer pleasure of sharing the

Good News with one another. You have given me much and I hope you feel that you've received something of value, too.

I do want to thank the members of our wonderful church staff for their excellent work. Judy Bortolotti is amazing in the office and has supported my work every step of the way. Eric Mazonson is the finest musician with whom I have ever worked (even in those big "castles" where I used to serve); I have looked forward every Sunday to hearing his offerings. Deanna and Josh Leedy-Andreozzi do wonders with our youth. I hope the church appreciates their hard work and continues to support their efforts.

I also thank our elected officers and committee members whose hard work makes good things happen at our church. Your efforts are often sacrificial and always inspiring to me. (And don't let's forget the Choir, UMW and UMM, and all our ministries that make Fisk the fine church that it is.)

Something ends and something begins: I am hoping for good things for each of you, for Fisk, for my family and myself. Whatever may happen, I am confident of God's loving care. In the confident words of the great mystic, Julian of Norwich (d. 1416): "*All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well.*" God keep us all!

Your friend,

Mark Goad

Staff of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

Pastor: TBA

Deacon:

Rev. Cheryln Gates

Youth Ministers:

Joshua & Deanna Leedy-Andreozzi

Choir Director /Organist:

Eric Mazonson

Admin. / Newsletter Editor:

Judy Bortolotti

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Phone: (508) 653-1674

Fax: (508) 655-0587

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Eric's Email: emazonson@verizon.net

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

Cheryln's Email: deacongates@gmail.com

Church Website: www.fiskumc.org



There will be many opportunities for adult learning here at Fisk. Please understand that focused on our children first. Watch our website and the bulletins at church for classes. Meanwhile, I would love to hear from folks who would like to teach or suggest class topics.

Having totally been fed by the Bible Study that I attend at Sarah and Zach Gates' home ---- I encourage you to think about starting your own group. I am here to assist you and I know all involved will be blessed.

Again , watch the website !!!!

- Susan Carney -

Worship Service Participants and Nursery Volunteers for September



Greeters:

- September 1- Linnea Fisher & Lois Potter
- September 8- Deborah & Sarita Hernandez
- September 15- Zachary & Sarah Gates & Family
- September 22- Gary & Marcia Hoyt
- September 29-Leedy-Andreozzi Family

Liturgists:

- September 1- Dorothy Phillips
- September 8- Susan Carney
- September 15- Barb Beekman
- September 22- Joshua Leedy-Andreozzi
- September 29-Elizabeth Coates



Friends and Family of the Fisk Congregation,

Last Sunday we had a delightful brunch to say goodbye to Pastor Mark and wish him a speedy recovery. We pray for God's hand to be with the doctors and on Pastor Mark as he heals.

The District Superintendent Rev Rene Perez has been in constant contact with the SPRC while working to promptly provide Fisk with an interim pastor. Our conversations have been encouraging and positive.

The Sunday, September 1st service will be at 10:30am in the Sanctuary and will be lead by Fisk congregation members. I hope to see you there.

Tom Currie, Fisk SPRC Chair

We are Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

Dorothy J. Phillips, Lay Leader

I feel called to step forward during this period of transition at Fisk Church from the ministry of Pastor Mark to that of an interim pastor. Do you?

2Peter 1:3,5a “Jesus has the power by which he has given us everything we need to live and serve God. Because you have these blessings, do your best to add these things to your lives”. Peter includes in the list to “add serve for God” to our lives. Later Peter assures us that if we are called and chosen by God, we will never fall.

I have been chosen and called by God to serve you at Fisk as Lay Leader. Many of you have been chosen and called to your roll of service at Fisk Church. Through our service to God and enhanced commitment between September 2013-June 2014 Fisk will be productive. We will be able to move forward and continue following the strategic plan developed earlier this year.

“You are God’s servant, in God’s place at God’s perfect time.”

Upcoming Worship Services:

- September 1: Debi Henry- speaker; Dorothy Phillips-liturgist
- September 8: Deanna Leedy-Andreozzi,-speaker;
Cheryl Gates- liturgist and communion service

UMM & UMW Combined Dinner

Tuesday, Sept. 10, 7:00 pm

"A Visit from Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain"

A First Person portrayal by Rev. Bob Macfarlane

We welcome Rev. Bob & Diana Macfarlane, life-long friends of Dave & Jan Cail. Bob is a Civil War enthusiast, and since 2013 is the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg, it seemed fitting to have him as our program. Bob "becomes" General Chamberlain, the leader of the 20th Maine Regiment of Little Round Top fame of July 2, 1863. He speaks as if it were 1889, the year in which he helps dedicate the Memorial with his 20th Maine boys. The program is entitled "A Visit from Joshua Lawrence Chamberlain," and he wears the uniform of the Civil War General.

Rev. Macfarlane is a Minister of the United Church of Christ, and grew up in the Youth Group of the First Congregational Church of Waltham, where he was ordained in 1971. Retired after 40 years of ministry, Bob is now serving in his third Interim Ministry position. He and Diana live in their retirement cottage in Carver.

Please see Janis Cail, Debbie Friscino or Ken Reynolds for more info

ANNUAL CHARGE CONFERENCE

The Annual Charge Conference of the Church will be held on Thursday, October 24th at 7:00 PM. The District Superintendent will be here to preside over the meeting.

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

All Committees are expected to get their reports to Judy in the Church Office no later than Thursday, October 3rd at 8:30AM.



Fall Events from the Missions Commission



September is our first annual Peanut Butter and Jelly drive for the Natick Food Pantry. Let's see how many jars we can collect!!

Our mission commission will be holding the 2nd Annual Pumpkin Drive starting the first week of October. All pumpkins will be donated from Roche brothers, Stop and Shop and Frannie's Flowers so 100% of the proceeds will be allocated to Fisk. Thanks in advance for your support!



This winter we will be doing a coat drive, dress for success and a baby clothes drive (so please put things aside as you are cleaning your closets this Fall).

Our build date for Habitat for Humanity is on hold until further notice. They are waiting on permits to start construction.



SPIRIT SUNDAY!!

Sunday, September 15 at 9:00am.

.....come for a pancake breakfast!

Breakfast will be pancakes, sausage, fruit bowl, yogurt, Cheerios, coffee and juice.

This is an opportunity to gather at church and share a meal...breakfast...with all of our church family.

Breakfast at 9:00am

Registration for all ages for Sunday School...for those wishing to participate.

Meet the teachers

Short class time or visiting

Worship at 10:30am

Let's all join together in the SPIRIT FELLOWSHIP...in HIS name. See you there!

Greetings from UMYF
and your Youth Ministers,



Josh and I pray that you all are doing well! We hope you have had wonderful summers, a chance to reconnect with family and friends, and a chance to recharge. We are looking forward to this year at Fisk and have many exciting things planned for the youth.

A little about UMYF...

United Methodist Youth Fellowship (UMYF) is comprised of youth in grades 6-12. Sunday School meets at 9:15 on Sundays and is a time of learning and teaching. This is where we take steps in our faith journey and find ways to follow Christ in our daily lives. Following the worship service from noon to 2:00 is a time of fun, fellowship, outreach and service.

When does it start and when does it meet?

Sunday School and Youth Group will begin on Sunday, September 15. Youth Group will typically meet every Sunday immediately following worship, from 12-2 as mentioned above. Once a month, there will be a mission/outreach event (or something else off-site). We will have lunch together...subs, pizza or something each week! We may ask you to BRING your own lunch some weeks :)

Coming this fall...

Beginning in October, we are excited to be offering Open Gym Night once a month on a Friday night. This event will run from 7-10 pm. It will be a time to hang out with other youth in the area, fellowship, play ping pong, shuffleboard, listen to music, shoot hoops have snacks and play some games. It will 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 from school!!

We hope to see all of you as we get started again in September.

Yours in Christ,
Deanna and Joshua Leedy-Andreozzi
dandjla@gmail.com

UMYF continued



UMYF continued

Youth Group September Calendar of Events

September 15

Sunday School 9:20

Youth Group 12:00 – 2:00

September 22

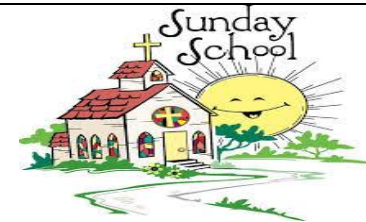
Sunday School 9:20

Youth Group 12:00-2:00

September 29

Sunday School 9:20

Yard Work and Bulb Planting at Cooper Community Center



From Susan Carney

On behalf of the
Children of Fisk

We may be small but we are mighty warriors for God. Please help to arm us with His words.

I am praying for 2 more lead teachers and many assistant teachers to rotate in the classes. Let me explain what I see as the ideal situation for the education of our children.

Nursery – Newborn and up to 2.9 or so depending on child. Care, play , and a solid lesson each week. Right now we have 2 kids ready for lessons and one for care. We have a teacher but need helpers.

Grades: Older Preschool and K - 1- We have a teacher .

We have 6 children. We need support staffing.

Grades: 2- 5. We have 5 or 6 students. We need a teacher and helpers.

Middle School – High School – We have teachers. I am looking for a substitute list. I am not sure of the numbers but ballpark tells me it would be 8.

Please see me ASAP with questions.

United Methodist Women

As the Fall season begins, we tend to reminisce about the summer months. We have traveled, relaxed, read books on the UMW Reading Program, attended some planning meetings, continued to knit Prayer Shawls and tried to be supportive of each other.

Now our schedules are changing...as we continue our work to be *a community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.*



September 10 - Tuesday at 7:00pm is our **Kick-Off meeting** for all the adults in the church. We are having a Pot Luck Supper and a speaker who re-enacts Capt. Joshua Chamberlain of the Civil War. More information elsewhere in the Messenger.

October 5 – Saturday at 9:15am is the Central MA UMW District Annual meeting in Leominster and will be focused on the UM Economic Ministry in Maine. We will be hearing more about the mission site and filling Christmas Stockings for 175 children served by this site. We ask you to bring items that fit in a stocking (on the smaller side of the usual Christmas Stocking...sample on our Bulletin Board) i.e. school supplies, socks, small gloves, hand cream, small toy, paperback books to roll, etc. \$9.00 includes Lunch. Election of officers—Sherry Culver will be nominated as District President...come and vote for this important office. Registration Forms on the Bulletin Board.

October 19 – Saturday at 8:30am- YARD SALE

Time to clean out again! This is our usual Fall Yard Sale...for Missions! Go through the attic, cellar, cupboards, garage and bring what we can help you recycle...and we will sell it to support our Mission Budget...for the Natick Food Pantry, Natick Service Council, Family Promise and beyond.



United Methodist Women can't

October 26 – Saturday at 8:30am Annual New England Conference **UMW Fall Gathering** in Milton MA. We are lucky that it is so close to us! We will hear about Cooper Community Center, UMEM in Maine and H.O.P.E. as program centered on women. Lots of information, resources, books, friends, fellowship and ideas. Mark the date and join us for a pleasant Saturday. Registration Forms are on the Bulletin Board.

Looking ahead...

Our FALL FAIR is November 16. Are you making things to sell? Continue sewing, knitting, painting...whatever it is that you do!

Prayer Shawl Ministry continues on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am. Join us!

Reading Program continues and two books will be discussed on September 12 at 10:00am

The Power of Half by Salwen

This Will Be Remembered of Her by McKenna

Circles! What is a circle?

United Methodist Women is of *community of women whose purpose is to know God and to experience freedom as whole persons through Jesus Christ; to develop a creative, supportive fellowship; and to expand concepts of mission through participation in the global ministries of the church.*

We welcome all women, all ages to join our organization. We have about 55 UMW members at Fisk UMC. You ALSO have the option to have a smaller group experience in addition by belonging to a CIRCLE. Guests are always welcome.

Hannah Circle meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 12 noon. They share lunch and fellowship and hear about the work of UMW.

Susanna Circle meets on the second Wednesday evening of the month at 7:30pm. We meet in members homes (or sometimes at Fisk) for our meeting.

Call Janis Cail for more UMW information 781-894-1730



Finance Update – September 2013

Welcome back to a fall season of excitement here at Fisk. It is good to see everyone and to re-dedicate ourselves to our faith and our efforts to serve. Financially, we are behind our Plan after seven 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 pledge and giving which is vital to our finances. As a result we are spending wisely, and carefully managing our resources:

- *Your financial support is 9% below Budget through July,*
- *We are spending less than our budgeted expenses, saving 10%,*
- *We continue to pray for improvements in our financial position.*

We would urge you to review your Statement of Giving from July, as well as your summer giving, and make every effort to catch up on your commitment to Fisk's 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, but those ministries were cut back due to our budget constraints. 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.

Lift Up Your Voice and Sing!



Choir is about to start up again! The first choir Sunday will be September 8th. 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---

September Prayer Focus and Memory Verse for Our Children

That Jesus will call them and no one will hinder them from coming. Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." And he laid his hands on them and went away. ([Matthew 19:13-15](#))

Every word of God proves true. Proverbs 30:5

Evangelism Commission



Natick Days – Saturday, September 21st

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 21st.

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!

Caring Corner

Ministry of Caring

Helping Hands Ministry – Meals, Rides, Chores/Tasks.

Faithful Friends – Caring Calls, Visits, Hospital Visitation. Our Faithful Friends ministry includes friendship to those in our family who could use a little more social contact, to get out more, to join in fellowship with others. Some of our brothers and sisters in Christ don't have family members or friends nearby who are able to provide routine contact and support. In our world of rapid, truncated text messaging and Facebook friends, wouldn't some real Face to Face friendships be rewarding? Relationships which could mutually enrich the lives of each other? Those who may bring together the patience and wisdom of life experience, with the optimism and exuberance of the young (at heart)? Those who can provide all the meaning of true friendships? Faithful Friends can provide a link between those of us who could use meaningful relationships and those who feel a desire to be helpful. If you fall into either category, for more information, please contact Sarah Gates or Debi Henry.