

The Messenger

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

September 2014

Reflections from Pastor Xia

Coming Home

Home is the center of my being where I can hear the voice that says:

'You are my Beloved, on you my favor rests'—the same voice that gave life to the first Adam and spoke to Jesus, the second Adam ;the same voice that speaks to all the children of God and sets them free to live in the midst of a dark world while remaining in the light.—Henri J. M. Nouwen

As we seek to squeeze as much enjoyment as we can out of the final days of summer, we also begin to prepare for the year ahead. School supplies must be bought, calendars begin to once again fill with activities, and here at the church, we prepare for our Rally day/Homecoming Sunday as well as the blessing of the backpacks (and briefcases!) It is a day when we move our worship back to our glorious sanctuary, the choir once again blesses us with their beautiful voices, Sunday School classes resume and we celebrate community together through prayer, worship, and of course, lots of fun and fellowship!

It is not just a return to "business as usual." It is not just about coming back to church after summer vacations have ended and routines have kicked back into gear. We are celebrating the fact that even if some of us have been away during summer, God always welcome us back—physically and spiritually—with open arms. We are celebrating the fact that God is the Good Shepherd standing at the gate who continuously calls to us and ushers us into the beloved community.

At the beginning of September, we move our Worship Services back to the sanctuary, welcome people who are back from vacation, and celebrate that good news of the Good Shepherd standing at the gate and ushering His beloved children. We come together to affirm that despite everything else going on in our lives, despite all our commitments and obligations, God is our true home, our shelter in the storm, and our deepest source of belonging.

So come to church on Homecoming Sunday and celebrate our wonderful, welcoming God. More than that, let Homecoming Sunday be an opportunity to re--center yourself in God as your true spiritual home. Attune your spirit to hear God's voice claiming you as a beloved child. Rejoice in the truth that God loves all creation dearly.

Blessing of the backpacks will take place on Sunday, September 7th, 9:30--10am. It is open to the community. Our children, remember to bring your backpacks; adults, you are encouraged to bring a briefcase or bag that you would like to be blessed for a blessing. See you in church!

Peace and blessings,

Pastor Xia Jiao--Chur

Staff of Fisk Memorial United Methodist Church

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

How to reach us:

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Eric's Email: emazonson@verizon.net	
Church/Judy's Email: fiskoffice@fiskumc.org	
Cheryln's Email: deacongates@gmail.com	
Church Website: www.fiskumc.org	

Worship Service Participants for September



Greeters:

September 7- Bingxin Xu & Tian Zhang

September 14- Gary & Marcia Hoyt

September 21- TBD

September 28- TBD

Greeters Wanted!

Would you like to be part of our Hospitality Team?

Each Sunday this group welcomes our congregation and assists new visitors!

To sign up, please visit our website: Fiskumc.org
and at the top right corner under "more" click on ministry signup
and then on Worship Hospitality Team

Acolytes

September 7- Kelli G.

September 14- Sarah F.

September 21- Rose C.

September 28- Elizabeth M.



Liturgists:

September 7- Susan Carney

September 14- Barb Beekman

September 21- Zachary Gates

September 28- Sherry Culver

Communion Servers

September 7 – Zachary & Sarah Gates

ANNUAL CHURCH CONFERENCE

The Annual Church Conference will be held on
Sunday, September 14th at 12:45 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 day at 11:45 AM.



Fisk Kid's Fashion Show and Fundraiser

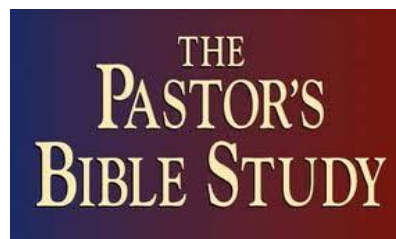
Fisk is sponsoring our 1st annual Kid's Fashion
Show on Saturday, October 4th from 5:00pm-
7:00pm. TXJ is sponsoring!!



Ready to be part of the Event Committee?

We need people who are organizers, people who know
people with kids, people who know how to make pasta
dishes, people who want to work behind the scenes the
day of the show! We need a leader!!!

Please sign up or reach out to Heather O ([508 308 5707](tel:5083085707))
or Michelle D ([508 294 5288](tel:5082945288)) for more information!!



Pastor Xia will lead a Bible Study and
Prayer Circle Group every Thursday
Beginning October 2nd.

Bible Study 4:00pm – 5:00pm

Prayer Circle 5:00pm -5:45pm

Come to one or both!!



Do you have a backpack or a
briefcase that you would like to
have blessed?

Join us outside (if raining, *inside*)
at

Fisk Methodist Church
106 Walnut Street Natick
Sunday – September 7, 2014
9:30am - 10:00am

*A blessing and song followed by
Muffins and Juice and Coffee....*

Questions ? Call 508-653-1674
Come one ...come all...

Ministry of Caring Caring Corner

*Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also
to the interests of others. Philippians 2:4*

It is our responsibility to be God's hands and feet as He heals and cares for our spirits. This month, I challenge church members to make regular times for prayer and meditation with God to speak your hearts. Give your worries to God and ask Him to strengthen your abilities to care for others in need. Tune into what God tells you...perhaps to reach out to a neighbor, send an email, make a phone call, make a meal, offer to help transport someone to an appointment, do an extra errand, or something else that is tangible and healing.

If you feel inspired to use your spiritual gift of caring, please contact Debi Henry or Sarah Gates. We might be able to pair you up with just the right need in our community.

If you have a need for healing, household help, friendship, car ride, food, please contact us. We might be able to pair you up with just the right caring helper.

Sarah 802-522-3163, sarahgates4@gmail.com
Debi 508-651-0256, debraleighhenry@yahoo.com



Finance Update – September 2014

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 need your help. 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. Our Plan still requires us to “borrow” from our resources in order to fund all of our planned ministries in 2014. As a result we are spending wisely, and carefully managing our resources:

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

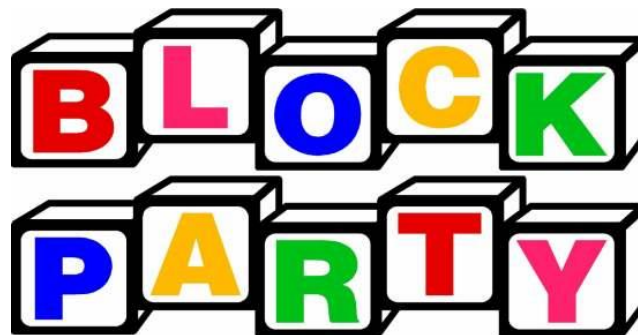
We would urge you to review your Statement of Giving, mailed in July, as well as your summer giving, and make every effort to catch up on your commitment to Fisk’s ministries.

Many great things are happening! Those ministries, and new ideas, depend directly upon the financial support of each and every one of us. With prayer, cooperation, intentional dedication to growing our church, and HIS grace, we will succeed in 2014 and beyond.

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.

**The Fisk Council of Ministries
invites you to our**



October 5th 3-5pm

***Fisk Church
106 Walnut St. Natick***

**Come visit the
neighbors
Games for children
Meet our new Pastor
FREE hotdog lunch,
coffee and cold
drinks**

**Help? Ideas? Suggestions?
Call Marcia Hoyt 508-655-0077**



**Tuesday, September 9th
7:00pm**

**Bring a casserole,
salad or dessert to
serve 6-8.**

Bring a friend!

We will gather together as the men and women of Fisk to hear a speaker from BINA Farms in Natick. The BINA Farm Center (BFC) brings together those with and without special needs by offering a variety of inclusive enrichment programs that will ultimately help them thrive personally and to make their best contribution towards the communities they live in and the society at large.

Information: Debbie Friscino 508-653-7657



**Saturday, September 13
10:00am - 3:00pm
Downtown Natick**

**Fisk will have a booth.
Come and seek us out.**

Zachary Gates is looking for help during the day—to tell OUR story and introduce the children and adults to Fisk's many opportunities. Call Zach to tell him when you can help! You'll have a great time!

**What are those wooden
boxes in the hallway?**



Well...one of them collects GOOD used clothing, of all sizes and shapes-- these are delivered to the United Methodist Economic Ministry in Salem Maine. They supply and stock two Mission Thrift Shops and make available clothing for the under-served families in the Western Mountains of Maine. This is a very low income, poverty area and United Methodist mission site is ours to support.

Questions? Gary or Marcia Hoyt

The other one collects non-perishable food and groceries for the Natick Food Pantry. Bring your contribution anytime and put them in the box. They will be brought to the Pantry regularly.

Questions? Susan and Tom Carney

Thanks for your generous support in both projects



As part of the Visioning Plan for Fisk and the reaching out into the community...last season we offered a Music and Movement Experience on several Saturday mornings. This is geared for toddlers through grade two.

Well, it is time to gather again! We have musical instruments, guitar music, parades, singing with active movements. Everyone has a great time! The children and the parents love this time together on Saturday mornings.

**Bring your young children or grandchildren!
Mention it to a neighbor! Spread the word!
Snacks for the children and
coffee etc. for the adults...
and it is all FREE.**

Saturday, September 20th

11:00am -12:00pm

Zach or Sarah Gates can tell you more



As this fall season comes upon us, are you looking for something new to get involved in? Change is good! God has so many opportunities for all of us to serve HIM and each other.

- Prepare / serve coffee and goodies following worship
- Help with the BLOCK PARTY
- Be the assistant at the Music and Movement time
- Be a substitute teacher
- Inquire about being a Liturgist
- Be a greeter or usher
- Help serve the Rotary Breakfast on a Thursday at 7:30am
- Volunteer to help at Natick Days
- Teach a class
- Help with the YARD SALE on October 18
- Help at the Natick Food Pantry (any 2nd Thursday)
- Join the Christmas Pageant Committee
- Serve our neighbors at the Open Door 9/25
- Call Michelle or Heather about the Fashion Show!
- Count and redeem bottles and cans for Fisk
....just to name a few!

**There are so many ways you can get involved!
Just ask we can find something for you.**



Deborah

(Judges 4-5)

DID YOU KNOW?

Deborah is considered by some to be the mother of Israel. Her love and obedience to God is undeniable. People came to her for her fairness and wisdom. When praised she gave all glory to God.

She went into battle with one of her top soldiers – Barak. He would not go unless she went with him as he seemed to think this battle against an army that had 900 iron chariots was foolish. She went as she knew she was intended to and the idol worshipping enemy was conquered.

Israel was freed from the 20 year captivity they had been subject to from these enemies.

(Please share this with your youth --- but we can all learn something from Deborah – the prophetess --punishment for sin and forgiveness for repentance –.... I would avoid reading Judges 4 out loud to them as it has a rather brutal component.)

Educational Blurb prepared by S. Carney
(Coming Attractions- Educational Moments on Our Website)



This is one of the four United Methodist Camps in New England. It is located in Rhode Island, just an hour from Natick. This year we encouraged our youth to attend camp for a week of their choice. Four of the youth participated in this adventure in their spiritual journey and had a variety of experiences. See below...

“Being able to go to Camp Aldersgate, despite the fact that I have gone before, was a life-altering experience. I met amazing new friends, who have changed me for the better. I participated in fun activities every day, which taught me not only about God and my faith journey, but also how I can carry out his work and help other people who may not be as fortunate as me. My counselors were phenomenal this year. They were inspiring, encouraging, and not to mention funny, creative, and just great to be around. This camp is the best one I have ever been to, and I am so excited to go back next year!” – Anna H.

“I had a lot of fun at Camp Aldersgate. I did the living arts week and we put on the musical, "The Sound of Music." I did technical theater which was a lot of fun. We built the sets and props. I enjoyed the week and met a lot of new fun people”. -Kelli G.

“I had a great time at Camp Aldersgate! I did the Go Guys week, and it was lots of fun. My favorite thing was the high ropes. I can't wait for next year!” -Zander G.

“Camp Aldersgate was probably the highlight of my summer! I made a bunch of forever friends and enhanced the friendship I already had with Anna H.! It also made me think about how I could spread God's word for JUSTICE”. – Italiana

October Messenger Deadline- September 25



Sunday, September 14th is the official start of
Sunday School
(September 7 details elsewhere)

This will be for all ages including adults. We start at 9:15
with singing for children and youth in Room 2..... and
then onto classes which run until 10:15.

Adult Class begins at 9:20 which allows for drop-off for
the children. If you would like to do pick up at the class
please be prompt because Sunday School teachers often
have other duties to fulfill.

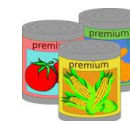
If you would like to review curriculum ...it's the same
that we used last year... visit Cokesbury.com on the
internet. It is called GROW. The high school students are
using a Biblically based current events curriculum called
LINC ...also what was used last year.

Adult class topics and teachers will be posted on our
website or sent through our email connection and so
please watch for updates. Any requests please let me
know.

Susan Carney

Missions

We are collecting for the *Natick Food Pantry* for the
month of September. Items especially in need are peanut
butter, tuna, cereal, Hamburger helper, coffee, tea, toilet
paper, shampoo. We will drop donations off at the food pantry
once per week, please bring your donated items to the bins
outside the church office.



Serving at Open Door community dinner is on Thursday, Sept.
26th @ 5 p.m. Please sign up in church office and pick an item to
make, we will have the list of food next to the sign-up sheet.



Fundraising: Please save the date –
Saturday, October 4th 5PM-7PM for our
wonderful Fashion Show Fundraiser. We are
partnering with Marshall's to have kids 2-12
model a few fall outfits. We will serve a pasta
dinner first. Look at the bulletin board for flyers
with more information. Invite your friends and
family. We are currently looking for kids from
out church that would like to participate, if interested
please email Heather at heatheroluwole@hotmail.com.

Look for our upcoming events: Turkey Dinner in
November and Breakfast with Santa in December!



If you have prayer requests or pastoral visit
requests, please go to our church website
www.fiskumc.org, click on the
prayer/pastoral visit request button, which is
on the home page (under Facebook and
Twitter icons), as well as on the Ministry
Staff page, and send me a request. All
requests are directly sent to me via the church website, and
it is completely confidential. Please indicate your preference:
would you like pastor to spread words/prayer request to the
church family in the email, or just put it on pastor's personal
prayer list. I have my own daily prayer list, and I do pray for
people on the list each and every day. Whatever you
choose--to be on the church prayer email list, or pastor's
personal prayer list-- I will fully respect your decision.