

The Messenger

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

July & August 2012

Reflections from Pastor Mark

I just now wrote a blog entry for the Fisk webpage which I entitled “*Faith Takes a Vacation.*” I allowed (in the blog) that I was only kidding: “*People,*” I wrote, “*take vacations (and hopefully their faith goes with them).*”

You know as well as I do that faith is not something that can be laid aside and forgotten. Whether we do or do not attend worship during the summer months, our relationship with God – the most intimate relationship we will ever experience – never ceases.

Change comes hard to some people, and I suppose I am one of those. When I was a kid – and don’t bother to remind me that that was a while ago! – “going to church” was a given. Church members attended worship every Sunday of every season, excepting the week or two the fortunate took for vacation (and even then, they were likely to attend services in whatever place they were visiting; if they vacationed at home, most attended worship just like any other Sunday).

I miss those days. I believe the world is greatly improved when believers devote the Sabbath to God. Regardless of that, those days are not coming back. And I, particularly as a pastor, need to remind myself that faith has not taken a vacation: Faith is merely expressed differently these days.

I wrote in a letter to members of our UMYF about to leave on a mission trip: “*Remember, as Saint Paul wrote, you are ambassadors for Christ.*” Yes, this is who we are.

Wherever we go, whatever circumstances we meet, we are empowered to be kind, do justice and honor our God. Perhaps we have more time to pray during the summer months. Read a really good book. Visit someone who is shut-in. Even attend worship!

Enjoy your summer. And keep practicing your faith!

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 |

How to reach us:

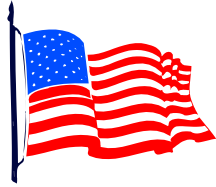
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Church Website: www.fiskumc.org

*Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.*

John Wesley

Worship Service Participants and Nursery

Volunteers for July & August



Acolytes

July 1 – Kelli G.
July 8 - Sarah F.
July 15 – Rose C.
July 22– Will S.
July 29 – Kelli G.

Aug 5– Sarah F
Aug 12- Rose C.
Aug 19– Will S.
Aug 26 – Kelli G.

Liturgists:

July 1– Dorothy Phillips
July 8 - Joshua Andreozzi
July 15 - Mark Owen
July 22– Elizabeth Coates
July 29 – Susan Carney

Aug 5– Ernest Acquaaah-Harr
Aug 12- Debi Henry
Aug 19– Dorothy Phillips
Aug 26 – Deanna L-Andreozzi



Communion Servers

— July 1– ~~Debbie Friscino & Elizabeth Coates~~ - canceled
Aug 5– James & Dorothy Phillips

Nursery at 10:30am (not provided at 9:00am during the summer)

July 1– Scott & Jennifer F. Aug 5– Scott & Jennifer F.
July 8 - Natasha & Heather Aug 12- Janis & Carol
July 15 – Janis & Carol Aug 19– Crystal & Pat
July 22– Crystal & Pat Aug 26 – Natasha & Heather
July 29 – Natasha & Heather



September messenger Deadline: Aug 23



Vacation Bible School

August 20-24

8:45 – 11:45

VBS is a tradition in our church. This year the curriculum will be from the same group that we have used in the past and that gives us A Night in Bethlehem.

Thanks to everyone who has already stepped forward to volunteer.

There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board near the water fountain. Watch the Sunday Bulletins and website for details.

If you have a special talent (i.e. MUSIC) please let me know.

Registration forms will be out by July 1.

Everything is possible with God Let's walk this scripture together.

Susan Carney – Education Chair

Summer Study Opportunities

Mid-week:

Pastor Mark will lead a study of the epistles of Colossians & Philemon based upon N. T. Wright's excellent study book. The class will be conversational in style - that is, relaxed! - and both informative and inspiring. The class will meet at the home of Sarah and Zach Gates, 28 High Street, Natick, on Wednesday evenings, 7:30-9:00. The first gathering will be on Wednesday, July 11.

Sunday mornings:

Pastor Mark leads a study of the lectionary - the Bible lessons that will be read in worship - every Sunday morning at 9:20 in Ogle Parlor. All adults and youth are invited to attend. Come and prepare for worship in a relaxed setting. You'll enjoy the conversation.

Walking Group



How does this sound?

Meet at the church and walk and talk with a friend after a time of prayer.

You may choose to walk around the parking lot or through the nearby neighborhood or downtown and back.

I will have measured routes for those who like details.

I know there are a few of us interested ... please let me know if you have an interest and we will plan dates.

No pressure ... just drop in fellowship and exercise.
Mornings look best.

I am waiting for your call or email

Susan Carney - 508-655-6148 or Susanjcarney@gmail.com

Laity Lines From Our Lay Leader

*"No, I am not talking about Twitter.
I literally want you to follow me."*



Twenty Questions! It really should be 40 questions as this Messenger covers 2 months – but I will let it slide. Here we go! Does God answer prayer? True or False: Doubt is an essential part of faith. Can you be a Christian if you have doubts about Jesus? Uh, oh. Look out! Can human beings have any ultimate sense of hope in life without belief in a personal God? Have you ever lost or misplaced your house or car keys? Hebrews 13:5 – do you know this verse? Do you know it – and believe it? Which would you rather be: a deep sea diver or an astronaut? Would you rather know it all or have it all? Would you rather receive good advice or good news? In John, Chapter 1 – what is the “Word?” What Bible translation is your favorite? What is the difference between the New King James version and the old King James version of the Bible? If the earth was created before the sun, how can it be created before the sun if there is no gravity of the sun to turn with or around it like the other planets? Have you signed-up to host a lemonade hour this summer? Who was known as the Man of Patience? There are 66 books in the Bible. How many are in the Old Testament and how many are in the New Testament? What is biblical numerology? What language was the Old Testament originally written in? What language was the New Testament originally written in?

Summer Online Bible Study! Really! Summer vacation plans? Going to be away a lot? How about connecting with God and your Fisk family online? Two Bible Study groups are being coordinated for each summer month. Every two weeks on a Sunday evening, you will receive an email of the pieces: a prayer, centering yourself with the scripture, a reading, and some notes and questions for you to reflect and respond to on your time schedule. There are no right or wrong answers to the questions. July: Psalms. August: Galatians. All responses and sharing will be grouped together and shared with the group by name. Email me if you would like to participate! If you are not online and would

like to participate by writing and sharing your thoughts and responses, information will be available on paper for you in the church office. Psalms start Sunday, July 1.

VBS – 10 Reasons Why We Do It! Kids love it! It is a great outreach event – even after all of these years! It is an opportunity to share the gospel! Fisk kids and others get to spend time together! It gives adults a chance to serve and goof! Parents get a chance to hear the gospel from their kids! VBS builds relationships! Kids connect with God and grow stronger in their faith! Kids learn new worship songs and classic hymns! Perfect weather all week – with big blue sky and comfy crew clouds! Check out Fisk's 2012 VBS!

Lay Speaking! Central Mass District Lay Speaking Classes will be held on Saturday's in September, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., at First UMC in Marlborough. On September 15, 22 and 29, the Basic, Youth Basic, and Advanced Classes – Accountable Discipleship, Go Preach, and Living Our Beliefs – The United Methodist Way are the classes being offered. Registration forms are located in the church office.



Top Ten Mobile Aps for Church Leaders!

Really? My telephone rings, I answer it. I need to make a call, I dial the numbers to get to the person I want to talk to. Others? Here you go! ... 1. BibleXpress 2. Toodledo 3. NOOMA 4.

Dropbox 5. KeyNote and KeyNote Remote 6. Logos 7. EverNote and JobNot Pro 8. Facebook 9. Lectionary 10. BC Reader. Please note that I have absolutely no idea what I just typed in this paragraph!

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



Lemonade Hour Hosts are needed for July and August. Please sign up on the Evangelism Board if you are willing to help!



Sunday School Updates

Adult Sunday School will continue at 9:20am during the summer. We meet in Ogle Parlor and Pastor Goad leads us as we discuss the lectionary .It is a wonderful time of sharing and learning. Please join us!

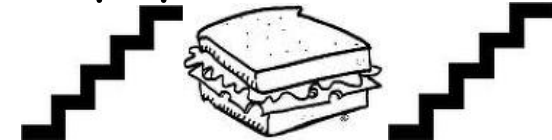
Sunday School classes for all ages will be starting on September 9. Stay up to date on our website.

The Education Committee will be meeting over the summer to discuss and order curriculum. If you have any feelings about this -- please email me at susanjcarney@gmail.com

I will be calling folks about teaching Sunday School once we decide on the format. Please pray about what you can do to support this most important activity.

There will be other educational opportunities popping up all summer. Watch your email and also, check the website weekly.

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



Sunday, July 22

The Making of 100 Sandwiches
12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Sunday, August 26

Mystery Ride!
12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Summer 2012 Mission Project!

We're collecting shoeboxes!. We will then place items in them for specific children aged groups – wrap them – and send them to the Spirit Lake Ministry Center – a UMC mission site - for Christmas gift distribution to children in need on the reservations in the Dakota's.

Laura's Notes



Some of you may remember Laura Norling (Mark Owen's wife) ... and a member of our church family.

Laura had a heart to recognize and thank ... and she did so through what became known as Laura's Notes.

Now as we look to the future of our church , we wish to start a mission whereby we write notes to those who should be recognized for hands and hearts at work.

We cannot all know what is happening even in our congregation. We are all busy doing various works as God calls us.

If you know of someone who you feel should receive a Laura Note, please let Susan Carney or Lois Potter know. We will see that a note is written.

We are very excited to begin this activity and will keep you posted.



I want to thank the faithful Sunday School Staff for all the time and love that they gave to our children this year. I loved to hear the chatter from the classes and know that the word was being studied and honored through lessons.

God Bless each of you Your efforts were appreciated and like the mustard seed will flourish where and when they should.

(Susan Carney, on behalf of your students)

Notes from the Council of Ministries...

Summer activities planned at this time include:

- 1. Musical Concerts (Big Band era, Rock 'n Roll , Country Music and more)**
- 2. Walk the Fourth of July Parade Route or part of it,**
- 3. Fisk Swim nights**

Every Monday evening the Recreation and Parks Department of Natick provide

Concerts on the Common from 7:00-9:00PM. Fisk is gathering in the southwest corner of the Common and enjoying this time together and letting the town know



“we are here.” Bring your lawn chair or blanket and join us. In case of rainy

weather the concert may be held on Tuesday...BUT it is pot luck whether or not we will have the Fisk canopy up.

Everyone likes a **Fourth of July parade!** Fisk is preparing a float to promote our church and it's activities to the town. Come help decorate the float, walk to distribute kid friendly items to spectators and just represent Fisk.



Fisk Swim Nights—July 18 and August 15--this is simple!



Bring your supper and swim suit to Hoyt's and enjoy a few hours together. Swim or not! Grill or not! All up to you. We invite all of you to come and relax and enjoy the fellowship. We will provide the pool, hot grill and cold beverages. Begins at 6:00pm.

(8 Bacon Street, Natick)

Questions? Call Marcia Hoyt 508-655-0077

\$\$\$ Finance Update – Summer 2012

Summertime...as we begin the beautiful summer season here in New England, and plan our family vacations and time together, we must remember our commitments to our stewardship of God's gifts to us all. We continue on "Plan" after five months. The faithful support of you the congregation continues to be a blessing, and we are spending wisely:

Our financial update is little changed from last month:

- Your financial support is within 1% of Budget through May, down somewhat from April
- We are spending at, or less than our budgeted expenses, which are less than what we are called to do
- We continue to pray for improvements in our financial position.

We prayerfully entered the year, and our Stewardship Plan, with the 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 committed in our 2012 Budget, we reviewed our financial position in prayerful contemplation of utilizing our cash resources to catch up on our Conference Mission commitments from last year. Unfortunately, our position has not improved, and we must continue to defer our decision on that commitment until later in the year.

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.

Women's Summer Weekend in Harrison Maine



We are planning a Women's Weekend Away for July 20-22 at Marcia Hoyt's home in Maine. Registration is open to all women of Fisk.

First come...first served.

The first 18 to register and pay the deposit of \$20.00 to Sherry Culver are guaranteed a bed!

This is a potpourri of activities...

Walking, shopping, praying, mission projects, swimming, napping, sharing meals, discussions, hot tubing, reflecting and just spending time as Christian Sisters. More information to come.

Name _____

Email or phone _____

Deposit of \$20.00 to: Sherry Culver
20 Vernon Rd.
Natick MA 01760

Helping our Homeless Neighbors:

Join us as we host families **HERE** at Fisk UMC from
Family Promise Metrowest (formerly MIHN)
between July 22-August 5

*Do you have a few hours to spare?
Want to make a difference in someone's life?*

Helping out is easy and there's a way for everyone to contribute.

You can:

- Prepare part of a dinner
- Serve dinner and eat with guests
- Chat with adults or play with kids
- Sleep overnight at Fisk
- Help with set-up or clean-up
- Prepare a Saturday breakfast
- Shop for groceries



To sign up-

Contact Debbie Friscino at fris@rcn.com

Sign-up on a Sunday morning

You can also go to our website and check out our
NEW ONLINE schedule! Fiskumc.org

Church Picnic 2012

Congratulation to the WOMEN of Fisk- Bible Quiz
Champions! Results are still pending of the youth vs.
elderly volleyball game!

Yummy, delicious, scrumptious food - "Leap for the Lord"
sack race-grillers-planners-set-up-clean-up-organizers -
team captains - participants:

*Thank You to all who made our church picnic
wonderful*



A Message from the Financial Secretary

Please remember that many of our ministries continue during the summer, and the need for your financial support continues in July and August. If you are away, please consider mailing your support to Fisk Church. Note on the outside of the envelope that it is for the Financial Secretary ... as always, envelopes addressed to the Financial Secretary are confidential.

Enjoy the summer and with it the blessing of rest and relaxation!

-Sherry Culver-

Special Requests for Prayer:

Jessica, Kirsten Berube (Kathy R's neice), Sarah, Juanita Middlebrook, Laura Roppola (friend of Nareece Cole) Donald (friend of Lois Potter), Nancy & Bob Howatt, Donna Henry, James Knapp (Kathy Reynold's Father), Carol Eason (Amy Bruns' sister), Fran, Jansma Family, Aaron Young, (Betsy's cousin), Ava Gates, Doris (David Cail's mother), Judy Farrell, Sylvia, Bill Pratt (Avis Winter's son-in-law), Jim LeBlanc, Maria Silva, Dot Wilson, Steve Lindsey, Megan Crowley, Carol Drew, Jeff Hurley, Robert Donohue, Judy (Elisa C's co-worker), Dylan Arthur, Lois & Cliff Martin,

Summer Calendar

Sunday Worship Services will continue at **10:30am** each Sunday and will be followed by **Lemonade Hour** at **11:30am**.

Sunday school for children will break for the summer, and will resume Sunday, September 9th.

Sunday School for Adults will continue throughout the summer

The Church Office summer hours are
Monday, Wednesday & Thursday, 8:30am -12:30pm
from June 25th through September 3rd.