

Mayflower Notes...



Mayflower Congregational Church

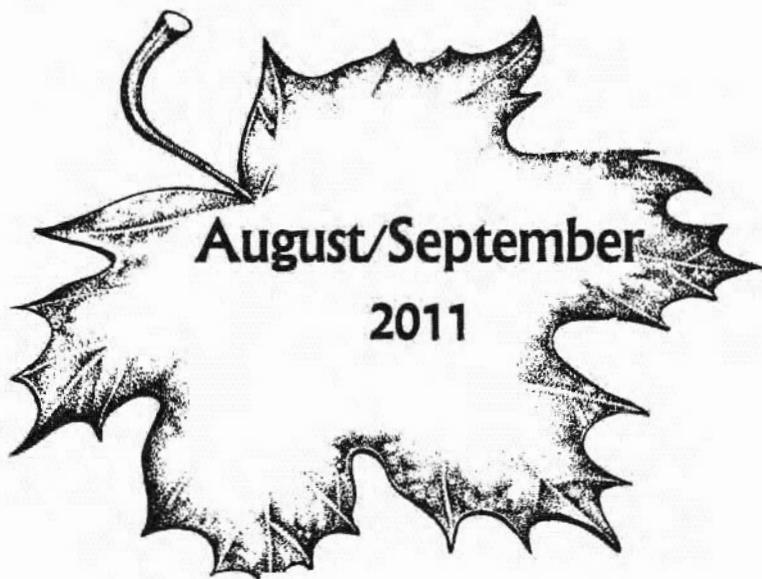
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Dr. Rick Martin

Pastor

*Dates to remember in
June & July*



<u>August 30</u>	No Women's Bible Study
<u>September 5</u>	Labor Day
<u>September 8</u>	Handbells/Choir
<u>September 10</u>	Second Saturday Supper
<u>September 11</u>	Prudential Council
<u>September 15</u>	Newsletter item deadline
<u>September 18</u>	Rally Sunday/Hobo Dinner



From the Trustees...

Aren't you enjoying the wonderful air conditioning in the sanctuary?? If you haven't been here to experience it this summer, it is SO great. Come and check it out! We are inching closer and closer to having enough pledged to complete the payment for the air conditioning units through our capital campaign. If you have not pledged, please consider doing so. If you have pledged, thank you very much! Remember, pledges do not need to be paid until the end of 2012 (or later if you need more time), so please prayerfully consider making a pledge or adding more to your pledge if you can.

From the Pastor's Desk

Change & Uncertainty

Is it September already? Where did the summer go? I've been hearing that a lot lately. Why the reference to 'September'? Because September denotes change in Michigan – change of weather, change of daily schedules, change of wearing apparel, and even change in outdoor hobbies. And with **change** usually comes **uncertainty**: what will 5th grade be like, will everyone like my new clothes, what does this scary future hold?

Added to the 'normal' changes of Fall, there has been a case of the **Bonkers** lately: the economy has been bonkers, the stock market has gone bonkers, the housing market has been bonkers, even the weather – bonkers. No wonder some people have been feeling a bit overwhelmed; change & uncertainty & the bonkers!

In the midst of change & uncertainty, it is reassuring when a bit of stability remains. Stability brings a feeling of security. September puts me back into my fall/winter routine. For me, routine equals stability. Thus, I like routine. However, even when everything is going Bonkers all at once, God remains stable. As I keep my focus on Him, I can remain secure and at peace.

Hebrews 13:8

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

Sunday morning Worship Service will help me stay focused on God in a changing and uncertain world. There I get to meet with my church family that I haven't seen all week; people who care about me and also are gathered to focus on God with me. For a moment in my week, being gathered together with fellow believers my focus is brought back from uncertainties, changes, the bonkers, insecurities, to God. My worries and fears subside into His stability, security, hope, love, and peace. All is right in my world again.



LAY LEADER'S MISSIVE

I see so many sources of fresh tomatoes and corn right now – can Fall be far behind?? But before Summer ends (too quickly) I want to extend a sincere thank you to all who worked on outdoor projects that have so improved the durability and looks of our property. Also thanks to all who have been involved with the A.C. to help our comfort and desirability as a place of worship.

So here comes Fall and Rally Day. This year along with everything that Liz is planning in Christian Ed., music planned by Chrisann, and an exciting message from Dr. Rick, we are adding one of Blanche's HOBOLunches to our celebration. This is to be a fund-raiser for the Mid-Michigan Food Bank. You may have read that they have had a series of expensive misfortunes during the last month. Their large freezer components need to be replaced, the refrigerator trucks and a car were vandalized and a transformer was struck by lightning. All of this has seriously curtailed a lot of needed food distribution, especially meat products. Many agencies have helped so far, but the repair bills will be over \$40,000!! My contact at the food bank was thrilled to hear that Mayflower was once again willing to help feed Lansing's hungry. So PLEASE plan to attend that day and give generously. What a great way to renew our church year!! See you there!!!!



As Always,
Rog

Directory Update

The church directory will be updated in September. Please check your entry and your email address and let Cozette or Lorraine know if you have any changes that you haven't already reported.

Welcome back, everyone!

I am so excited to start another church year. We hope to have more guest speakers come to our Sunday School, so if you have an interesting hobby, or an adversity you've overcome, or just like to talk, contact me, Ann, or Linda.

This year, I am looking forward to beginning confirmation classes for our three oldest Sunday Schoolers. I will be teaching this subject on the first and third Sundays of the month, and participating with the younger kids on the second and fourth Sundays. This will be my first opportunity to teach confirmation, so I am a little nervous!

Ann and Linda have lots of fun crafts and activities planned for the younger children, so make sure you bring them to church! I look forward to seeing everyone in the fall.

Liz Canfield



Rally Day Hobo Dinner Fund Raiser

Blanche will be doing another Hobo Dinner on Rally Day, September 18th immediately after church. We will be having sloppy joes and all of the extras; cole slaw, chips and dessert. The cost will be \$6. The monies that are raised will go to the Mid Michigan Food Bank to help them repair their equipment.

Mission Trip

If you or someone you know would like to be part of a mission trip to Mexico with 30 others from Congregational churches in Michigan next June 21-28, please get additional information on the location and costs from Cozette in the office. The next *Congregationalist* magazine will have an article on this year's trip to give you an idea what is involved.

“Servant-leadership is all about making the goals clear and then rolling your sleeves up and doing whatever it takes to help people win. In that situation, they don’t work for you, you work for them.” ~ Ken Blanchard in “Servant Leadership” The Management Forum volume 4 number 3. This makes the case for humility and helpfulness.

“Whatever our career may be, true leadership means to receive power from God and to use it under Gods rule to serve people in Gods way.” ~ Leighton Ford

“There is nothing small in the service of God,” quotes Francis de Sales (1577-1622). And from Jane Douglas White: “Too often we say, ‘I have no talent to teach a Sunday school class.’ ‘My home is not nice enough to have a Bible study here.’ ‘I don’t cook well enough to help with Meals on Wheels.’ ‘I’m a businessman, not a carpenter. I wouldn’t know the first thing about building a house for Habitat for Humanity.’ When we step out in faith and offer all we have, God will use it in powerful ways. How much is enough? Just what we have when God is with us!”

And finally, a meaningful quote from Martin Luther King, Jr: “Everybody can be great because anybody can serve. You don’t have to have a college degree to serve. You don’t have to make your subject and verb agree to need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”



: was in our service for August 21: Lord, grant me grace to love and to proclaim Your unfailing love to all. Help ur love through me. Lord, open my eyes to opportunities o help and serve others.

Through Christ, the suffering Servant, I pray.

Amen

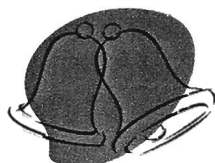
Chrisann

Please speak to me about Adult Choir or Bells, Liturgical Drama, or any thoughts you have about music that you would like to sing or hear. See you Thursdays this Fall!

September 8
September 8

Chancel Bells
Mayflower Adult Choir

5:55 set-up, to 7:15
7:30-9:00





Serving and Leading/Leading and Serving

From Mark 9, the subtitle that leads us into this gospel story reads “Who Is the Greatest?” The disciples were arguing about who would sit at Jesus’ right hand in Heaven.

²³ They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the road?” ²⁴ But they kept quiet because on the way they had argued about who was the greatest. ²⁵ Sitting down, Jesus called the Twelve and said, “If anyone wants to be first, he must be the very last, and the servant of all.”

M. Scott Peck, writer of *the Road Less Traveled*, states: “Servant-leadership is more than a concept, it is a fact. Any great leader, by which I also mean an ethical leader of any group, will see herself or himself as a servant of that group and will act accordingly.”

There are many great quotes to help us to think about these two roles. We may think of serving and leading as two different ideas and actions, but there is much to repudiate this thinking, including Christ’s own example for us. Clement of Alexandria (c.150-225) synthesizes “The Lord ate from a common bowl, and asked the disciples to sit on the grass. He washed their feet, with a towel wrapped around His waist - He, who is the Lord of the universe! He drank water from a jug of earthenware, with the Samaritan woman. Christ made us His aim, not extravagance... We are not to throw away those things which can benefit our neighbor. Goods are called good because they can be used for good: they are instruments for good, in the hands of those who use them properly.” You can see that he also finds Christ’s example leading us to a simple and sharing lifestyle.

Business leaders are on-board with the concept of serving to lead. The business world is not necessarily separate from our Christian faith. Here are three excellent quotes which shine a light on this:

“My research debunks the myth that many people seem to have . . . that you become a leader by fighting your way to the top. Rather, you become a leader by helping others to the top. Helping your employees is as important, and many times more so, than trying to get the most work out of them.” ~ William Cohen, *The Stuff of Heroes: The Eight Universal Laws of Leadership*.

CROP Walk

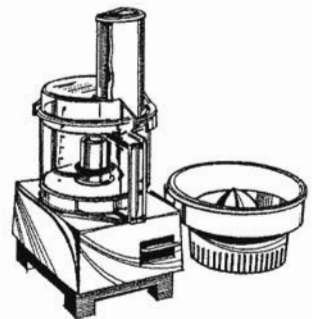
As you know, we are the first rest stop on the CROP Walk route, and we need volunteers to fill water cups for the masses who will be coming by the church. It's a very short time commitment, and not difficult work. If you can help, please let Cozette know in the office.

Thrift Sale

Our thrift sale in June netted about \$1450, which is largely being donated to the air conditioning capital campaign. Thank you to all who worked in set-up, during the sale, and in clean-up, and, of course, to all who donated a record amount of "stuff".

We have found that a fall sale actually is preferable because there is virtually no competition at that time, so we are planning another sale for November 4 and 5 (Friday and Saturday), with the same hours as the sale in June. Please start now to identify good, saleable things that you have around the house but don't really need any more. Put a box or bag in a corner of a closet and you'll fill it up in no time as you go through your closets, drawers, cupboards, garage and basement. It's amazing the amount of stuff we all have! It would help a great deal if items are clean and in working order; otherwise, they don't sell well and we sometimes have to throw things away. So, if it's truly trash, toss it out. Clothing and other items should be clean. Kitchen items, linens, books, Christmas decorations, and children's items are good sellers, but it's always amazing what will sell. Finally, be sure to plan on coming to shop yourself. You never know what treasures you may find!


Plan to hold your stuff and bring it in any time after church on Sunday, October 30. That day is Stewardship Sunday with the lunch to follow so we would like the social hall to be in nice condition for that. We also need a lot of help to set up, run the sale, and clean up after the sale, so please mark your calendars now for that week. Remember, you can also invite friends, family, coworkers, etc., to donate items. We'll be glad to have it.



September 2011

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Labor Day	No Women's Bible Study 		Handbells 6:30 Choir 7:30		Second Saturday Supper 5:00 p.m.
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Communion Prudential Council 12 p.m.		Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m.		Handbells 6:30 Choir 7:30 Trustees 5:00 p.m.		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Rally Sunday Hobo Dinner 12:00 p.m.		Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m.		Handbells 6:30 Choir 7:30		
25	26	27	28	29	30	
		Women's Bible Study 6:30 p.m.		Handbells 6:30 Choir 7:30		

