

# Mayflower Congregational Church



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**August/September  
2016**

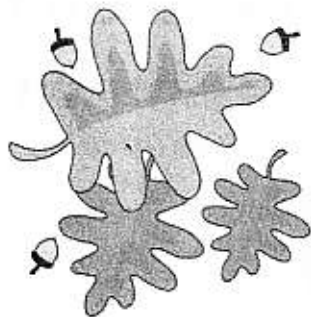
**Dr. Rick Martin**

**Pastor**

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# Birthdays



## AUGUST

- 8/6 - Ben DeWitt
- 8/9 - Kim Finison
- 8/12 - Ryan Graham
- 8/20 - Jerry Fuller
- 8/21 - Sharon Graham
- 8/27 - Susanne Mannino
- 8/26 - Sue Emrick

## SEPTEMBER

- 9/12 - Bill McHarris
- 9/12 - Kimberly Strong
- 9/20 - Terry Graham
- 9/21 - Mary Rutledge
- 9/25 - Laura Stebbins

# Anniversaries

## AUGUST

- 8/24 - Terry and Sharon Graham (48 years)
- 8/27 - Bill and Rilla McHarris (56 years)
- 8/27 - Dick and Linda Williams (45 years)
- 8/27 - Eugene and Shirley Potts (22 years)

## SEPTEMBER

- 9/5 - Bob and Sue Mott (29 years)
- 9/21 - Frank and Linda Wheeler (48 years)
- 9/26 - Dick and Nancy McKay (62 years)



## *From The Pastor's Desk*

### The Revealing of God's Plan

September in Michigan: the return to old (and new) ways of life. School is back in session. Church programs revert to our Fall/Winter schedules. Football is back. Second Saturday Suppers start again at Mayflower Congregational Church. The familiar is back, along with a few new twists.

That makes some of us wonder, "What does God have planned?" Wouldn't it be nice to have a blueprint? Or at least a bullet outline? Something that said to do points one, two and three; and God will bless you richly, and you'll live happily ever after. I, personally, would like that.

However, God seldom seems to work that way. As we pray, as we read the Bible, as we work together and are faithful to God, then He reveals His plans for us (individually and corporately) along our daily paths. One of Israel's shortcomings in following God (and they had many), was a lack of patience.

#### Psalm 106:13

But they soon forgot what he had done and did not wait for his plan to unfold.

As we journey through this life, WHO we are is more important than WHAT we accomplish (even for the Kingdom of God). Are we being Christ-like? Are we walking in love and compassion. Are we being the person God created us to be today? As we do thusly, His plans for us will continue to unfold. And GOOD plans they are!

#### Jeremiah 29:11

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."



## Where did summer go?

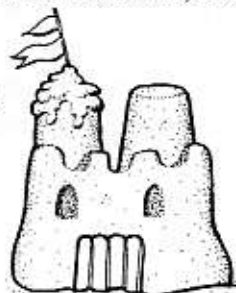
It seems that summer went by so fast. Here it is time for school and soon the leaves will change. Apples and pumpkins will be in abundance. Blink and Halloween will be here.

By the time you read this, I will have been out in God's country and back. It's as beautiful out West in its own way as it is in Michigan, and in September I will go East to see the beauty of New England.

Isn't it amazing that our country, state by state, is so different? It makes a person wonder what God had in mind. It's like he tried many things before he was finished, if he is finished.

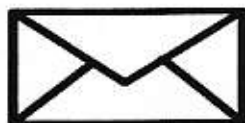
" from the mountains, to the prairies, to the oceans white with foam, God bless America, my home sweet home."

Ann McClelland



## Church Directory Update:

The church directory will be updated soon. Call or email the office if you have any changes in your info.



## Cards Needed:

If you have any "get well" or "thinking of you" cards that you don't need, please bring them to the church office and we will make good use of them. They are needed for the monthly mailing of cards to many of those on our concerns/prayer list and for those in our congregation who are experiencing a medical issue or need cheering up. Thank you!

## Ageing Gracefully

1. My goal for 2016 was to lose just 10 pounds ... only 15 to go ...
2. Ate salad for dinner ... Mostly croutons & tomatoes ... Really just one big, round crouton covered with tomato sauce ... And cheese... FINE, it was a pizza... I ate a pizza ...
3. How to prepare Tofu:
  1. Throw it in the trash.
  2. Grill some Meat.
4. I just did a week's worth of cardio after walking into a spider web ...
5. I don't mean to brag but... I finished my 14-day diet food in 3 hours and 20 minutes ...
6. A recent study has found women who carry a little extra weight live longer than men who mention it ...
7. Kids today don't know how easy they have it... when I was young, I had to walk 9 feet through shag carpet to change the TV channel...
8. Senility has been a smooth transition for me...
9. Remember back when we were kids and every time it was below zero out they closed school? Me neither.
10. I may not be that funny or athletic or good looking or smart or talented ... I forgot where I was going with this ...
11. I love being over 60 ... I learn something new every day ... and forget 5 others ...
12. A thief broke into my house last night ... He started searching for money ... so I woke up and searched with him...
13. My dentist told me I need a Crown ... I said, "You bet, pour mine over rocks" ...
14. I think I'll just put an "Out of Order" sticker on my forehead and call it a day ...

PS: Sunday, March 13, 2016 was Daylight Savings Time ... hope you didn't forget to set your bathroom scale back 10 pounds on Saturday night ...

## Mayflower Financial News

The following is a brief summary of our finances  
as of July 31, 2016:

Income:	\$ 6,514.98
Expenses:	4,335.94
	\$ 2,179.04

### YTD for Seven Months

Income:	\$ 56,784.77
Expenses:	41,482.05
	\$ 15,302.72

### Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 9,948.63
Savings	21,016.99
Heat Fund Savings	17,852.54
Memorial Fund CD	5,498.35
CD Savings	\$ 22,315.05

\$ 76,631.56

A more detailed report is available in the book rack near the church office.

Linda Wheeler  
Treasurer



## The Backpack Program

A big thank you to all who participated in the backpack collection this year.

We collected many backpacks, lots of supplies and over \$230 for the "Give a Child" project. This organization also provides housing for many refugees. They intend to provide supplies for children of all ages. They are most grateful for our contributions.

Thank God for you "big" hearts!

Roger Kennedy



## Inspiration

"For everything in this journey of life we are on, there is a right wing and a left wing: for the wing of love there is anger; for the wing of destiny there is fear; for the wing of pain there is healing; for the wing of hurt there is forgiveness; for the wing of pride there is humility; for the wing of giving there is taking; for the wing of tears there is joy; for the wing of rejection there is acceptance; for the wing of judgment there is grace; for the wing of honor there is shame; for the wing of letting go there is the wing of keeping. We can only fly with two wings and two wings can only stay in the air if there is a balance. Two beautiful wings is perfection. There is a generation of people who idealize perfection as the existence of only one of these wings every time. But I see that a bird with one wing is imperfect. An angel with one wing is imperfect. A butterfly with one wing is dead. So this generation of people strive to always cut off the other wing in the hopes of embodying their ideal of perfection, and in doing so, have created a crippled race."

## Music Notes



In our culture we normally think of January 1<sup>st</sup> as symbolizing a fresh start, a time to make resolutions to improve and a time to get excited for the future. However, when you're involved with teaching such as I have been, you tend to think in terms of receiving the gift of "getting it right" at the beginning of September, as well.

Every year I taught I would head to a teacher's store in August to browse over new bulletin board ideas, new teaching aids, new books to help my students. I would beef up my wardrobe a bit, and I would spend time thinking of new strategies to encourage my cherubs' learning for the upcoming school year.

I'm retired from teaching now, but I can't help but feel the same excitement I used to as I headed back to school each fall. I have most of the hymns and anthems mapped out for the congregation and choirs, and I'm getting antsy to begin rehearsals. I suppose that watching the Olympic athletes excelling at their sports tends to rev me up, as well, but that is another newsletter article in itself!

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, the first Sunday the choir is back in the loft, our worship service will be centered around celebrating our nation's resilience and paying homage to the people who lost their lives fifteen years ago during 9/11. Our anthem will be based on a beautiful rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner." If that doesn't encourage a new beginning I don't know what will.

So, please join us at Mayflower this fall. It promises to be a time for reflection as well as inspiration. It promises to be a chance to celebrate life, bounty, and a church that loves you very much. I hope to see you soon.

Barb Fuller

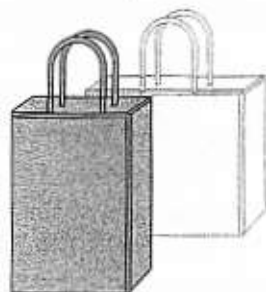


## Thrift Sale

We are having another thrift sale October 28 and 29 (Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.). Please check around your house now to identify good, saleable things that you have but don't need. Please have items clean and in working order or they don't sell well. Sometimes we have to throw things away--which we hate to do! If it's truly trash, just toss it out yourself. Kitchen items, jewelry, linens, books, clothes, and children's items are good sellers, but you never know what will sell. Remember, too, to invite friends, family, co-workers, etc., to donate items. We'll be glad to have them! Finally, be sure to plan on coming to shop yourself. You may find some treasures! We truly are our own best customers!

Please hold your stuff and bring it in after the Consecration Lunch on October 23. We will need a lot of help (both men and women!) to set up, run the sale, and clean up after the sale, so please mark your calendars now for that week. Set up will be 10-Noon (or so) on Monday-Thursday (October 24-27). See Lorraine or Ann to volunteer to help.

Regular-size paper grocery bags are always needed for the bag sale time. Bring them in any time



## Church Office Staffing and Hours:

While the office is being staffed with volunteers, the hours are 9:30 a.m. to noon. On most days, Dean Olsen, our custodian, is in the building before that. If you call and no one answers, leave a message and someone will call you back, or feel free to call Sue Mott (420-3018) or Lorraine Finison (321-3221).

Many thanks to Sue Mott, Linda Wheeler, Lorraine Finison, Rilla McHarris and Meredith Kennedy for working cooperatively to cover the office. If anyone else is interested in helping out from time to time, we could use a few subs. If so, please call the office. No experience needed!



## From Your Trustees

The well-being of the church continues even if schedules lighten up in the summer, so your trustees have been meeting each month in order to address the many needs of the church. Among them have been:

Making sure the secretarial position in the office is filled. So far it has worked out well to have the same volunteers covering those responsibilities each week. New office hours are 9:30 A.M. – 12:00 P.M., Monday through Friday.

Getting a second quote on what it would cost to replace all heating units in the church, if necessary. The new goal for the Mayflower Heat fund has been updated to \$30,000 based on those quotes.

Resolving our church's many and varied electrical issues. We now have a quote on most of the problems and are proceeding to get them resolved. The first to be fixed will be the sanctuary lighting, with bulbs being replaced and each cylinder fixture taken down and rewired. We will also be replacing the fixtures in the stairwell so that it will be well-lit. If you're interested in knowing about what else will be fixed, please speak with a trustee.

Performing staff reviews.

Developing a checklist of what needs to be taken care of when leaving the building to be used by us as well as Word of Life.

The placement of the Word of Life sign on Mt. Hope.

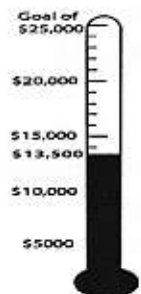
Dealing with the repair of a cranky air conditioning unit in the sanctuary.

The outside workday in May which reaped the rewards of beautiful church grounds and a newly painted shed.

The outside workday in September which will focus on re-staining the handicap ramp and painting the yellow curb blocks.

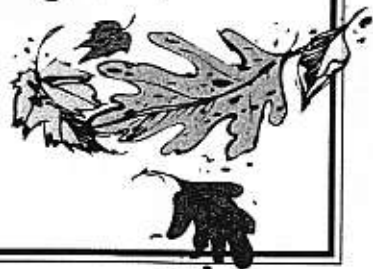
The repair of the railing on the steps of the south side of the building.

Heat fund new  
goal is \$30,000



What's happening in  
September...

- 9/5 Labor Day, Office  
closed
- 9/6 Trustees Meeting  
10:15 a.m.
- 9/10 Second Saturday  
Supper - 5:00p.m.
- 9/11 Prudential Council
- 9/15 Deadline for Notes
- 9/18 Rally Day and  
Picnic



Head Usher

Lois Ries

Outreach Focus

Food Bank