

Mayflower Notes...

Mayflower Congregational Church

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Dr. Rick Martin

Pastor



*Dates to remember in
December..*

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| <u>December 11</u> | <i>Second Saturday Supper</i> |
| <u>December 13</u> | <i>Christmas Pageant</i> |
| <u>November 20</u> | <i>Weight lifting Meet</i> |
| <u>December 24</u> | <i>Service of Lessons and Carols</i> |
| <u>December 25</u> | <i>Christmas Day</i> |
| <u>December 31</u> | <i>New Year's Eve</i> |

Head Usher

Naida Kenyon

Outreach Focus

The Mitten Tree



From the Pastor's Desk

CHRISTMAS 2010

I am sure Christmas brings many different thoughts to each of us. Among them are good memories, bad memories, happy memories, sad memories; some memories we hope we won't forget, others we wish we could. Christmas brings busy times, crowded times, party times, family times, school events, family events, church events and community events. Plus the whole expense of Christmas, but we'll not get into that here.

No wonder we are worn out come January 1st! There are a lot of "extras" going on during this time of the year – some of it we love and some of it we endure. All in the name of the celebration of the birth of Christ. However, two millenniums ago, the birth of Christ went unnoticed by all but a few.

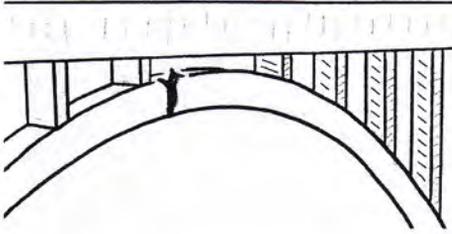
Luke 2:10-14 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

Even today, in the midst of all the busyness of Christmas, the birth of Christ may go unnoticed. The reason for the season is not presents, food, partying, family get-togethers and special events. Jesus is the reason for the season! It is in honor of His birth – thus God's visual demonstration of His love for us while we (mankind) were yet sinners and enemies of God. We see God's love *wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger*; to live as a man, to die as a sacrificial lamb, to be *for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord*.

In the midst of all the fun and celebration and traditions of Christmas, as your pastor I encourage you to also make time to reflect upon the reason for our celebration. Take time to read the Christmas story (the real one) in Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 2:1-20. Makes plans to attend Mayflower's Christmas Eve service and other special Christmas events around town, in addition to our Advent Sunday services. It is good to remember God's gift of love *wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger* along with all the fun and traditions of the season. As we hear Santa shouting, "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night" we can also remember that Jesus is the Reason for the Season.

My prayer for you is that you will have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Rainbow Bridge (on Old Hwy 40) is on the Old Donner Pass Highway. It has a spectacular view of Donner Lake and the newer Route 80.

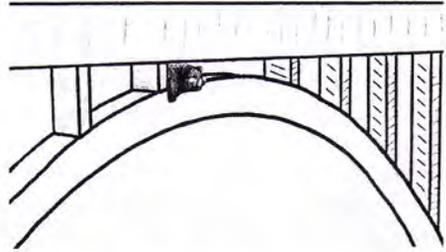


A bear was walking across the bridge one Saturday when two cars also crossing the bridge scared the

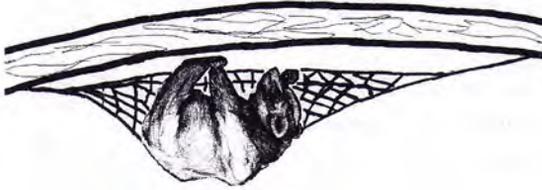
bear into jumping over the edge.

Somehow the bear caught the ledge and pulled itself to safety. Authorities de-

ecided that nothing could be done to help on Saturday night. They returned Sunday morning and found the bear sound asleep on the ledge.



After a net was secured under the bridge, the bear was tranquilized. It fell into the net, which was then lowered. When the bear woke up, it walked out of the net and away.



There is a moral to this story you know. This bear made a wrong move and found he was hanging by his nails. Somehow he was able to pull himself up onto a ledge, where he saw he was in a very bad, impossible situation, and what did he do?

He took a nap. And sure enough the situation took care of itself while he was asleep.

The moral is that when confronted with a bad situation sometimes the best solution is . .

take a nap



Sunday School News...

As I write this article, snow is approaching for the first time, so it is easy to get into the Christmas spirit!

Our Sunday School has been busy in November preparing for the Christmas pageant on December 12th - make sure to mark it on your calendar! I'm requesting now that people sit near the front, as I have approximately 20 children and no way to mike that large of a group. Hopefully, it will be a delightful time for all of us!

Linda, Ann, and I have been working on plans for 2011, and we have some wonderful guest speakers lined up to be our focus each month. Don't be shy about checking with us - we were able to find applicable Bible verses for Poison Control month, so we can do anything!

May the Lord bless us all as we celebrate our most Holy of seasons -

Liz



From the mouths of babes...

A little boy opened the big old family Bible with fascination, and looked at the old pages as he turned them. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible, and he picked it up and looked at it closely. It was an old leaf from a tree that had been pressed between the pages. 'Momma, look what I found,' the boy called out. 'What have you got there, dear?' his mother asked. With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered: 'I think I found Adam's suit!'



Minding Your Music

“Begin where you are. Begin now.”

Dr. Norman Vincent Peale

Every day is a new beginning. This may be difficult to remember and believe as we push ourselves out of bed. What does the day have to offer? What do we have to offer the day?

Some of us (ahem) are struggling to not buy into our society’s youth culture, and to know that we have much to offer to the world. Do not let your age (younger or older) be a roadblock. I see many great examples of persons at Mayflower who ‘Just do’ and get it done. It is really fabulous. Look around—from within and without—and keep doing as you are able. Or pray as you are able—that is also doing.

“All things are possible with God.”

Matthew 19:26

There is beautiful music coming up in December. There is special music every week. The handbells have a lovely advent melody on December 5. The choir will sing an interesting selection on December 19, “Did Mary Know?,” that goes through the entire Christ story and back to His birth. Christmas Eve is full of wonderful music, with both original and familiar pieces. “Hodie” by John Leavitt is new and exciting, “Shepherd’s Medley” as performed by the bells will weave many joyous carols together, and the duet Gesu Bambino will be sung. Of course, your favorite carols will be sung as a congregation. On December 26 we will have a carol sing.

We are blessed to be able to worship together.

Christmas Eve Service

Once again we will have our Christmas Eve Service beginning at 7 pm. There will be special music by the choirs and a reception following. Please plan to attend with your family and friends.

The offering will go to the
Salvation Army.



Poinsettias

Poinsettias for advent and Christmas Eve decorating are again available to order in memory or honor of someone. The cost is still \$10 and they can be ordered from the office. The deadline for ordering is Sunday, December 12th.



December 2010

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat



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| 5 | Communion | 6 | Quiet Worship Time 6:30 pm | 7 | 8 | 1 | Handbells 6:00 Choir 7:30 | 2 | Handbells 6:00 Choir 7:30 | 3 | 4 | Second Saturday Supper 5:00 pm |
| 12 | Children's Christmas Play | 13 | Quiet Worship Time 6:30 pm | 14 | Trustees 7:00 pm | 15 | Handbells 6:00 Choir 7:30 | 16 | Handbells 6:00 Choir 7:30 | 17 | 18 | 25 |
| 19 | Prudential Council 12:00 pm | 20 | Quiet Worship Time 6:30 pm | 21 | 22 | 23 | Handbells 6:00 Choir 7:30 | 24 | Service of Lessons and Carols 7:00 pm | 31 | 25 | Christmas Day |
| 26 | | 27 | | 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | | | |
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