

Mayflower Notes...



Mayflower Congregational Church

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Dr. Rick Martin

Pastor

February



Birthdays

2/1 Nancy McKay

2/9 Lisa Jones

2/16 Mark Holmes

2/21 Dick McKay

Anniversaries

2/18 Janet Hershey & Bob Felter

Head Ushers

Naida Kenyon and Lois Ries

Outreach Focus

Food Bank



From The Pastor's Desk

What a month of weather we have experienced! The ice storms, the below zero temperature, the snow. Businesses that haven't closed due to weather since the 1970's actually called off work. Mayflower Church cancelled a couple of Sunday morning services and our office was closed several days. Only by a miracle of God did we have the opportunity to celebrate Jesus' birth with our Christmas Eve Service. I'm sure glad every Michigan winter doesn't include all this harsh weather.

Driving to church Sunday after the ice storm, everything was coated with ice but the sun finally came out – it was beautiful! So much damage, yet so much beauty. That reminded me: no matter how dark the trial (which never comes from God, but He always walks with us through it), God's blessings are abundant. There is an old gospel song, *Count Your Many Blessing See What God Has Done*. Every dark cloud has a silver lining – if you look for it.

A practice I encourage people to do when going through trials is to write on a piece of paper the positive things directly connected to the trial. Of course, when I suggest that, they look at me very weird – as they cannot imagine anything good in their trial. But every trial has more blessings connected to it than dark spots. For example, the woman going through marriage problems I last suggested this to – her husband being her dark spot in their marriage. She could not think of anything positive about him when I suggested this; I had to give her a couple of examples to get her started. Her list is now up to 107 positive things about her husband, and growing.

Life on this planet has some dark clouds floating overhead from time to time. No one is exempt. Most of them are not fair. However, everyone of them has a silver lining, if you will diligently look for it. God is good – even in your darkest moments, look to the light.

James 1:2 (you should read the whole chapter)

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds ...

Lay Leader's Message

New Year's resolutions sound like a good idea. I've made and broken a number of them myself, usually before the end of January. So, why test our will power? Maybe most resolutions are just not attainable. Like eating less chocolate when chocolate is my favorite thing. How about a compromise by eating more fruits and vegetables?

I recently heard about another type of resolution that makes sense to me and I think I'll try it. At the end of each day, think of three good things that happened that day, and why they happened.

That's it. It doesn't matter if these are big, life changing events, or small moments of appreciation. You can write them down in a journal, share them together with your mate, family, or friends, or just think about them. To start with, it could be "I woke up today." Over time, you start to see more of the good that's around you.

It's another way of counting your blessings. Look for more good in your life, and you'll start to find more of it. This is one significant ingredient for a happier and more meaningful life.

As far as church stuff goes, it looks like we have our work cut out for us in 2014. The Trustees report that our building and surroundings need some maintenance which goes beyond budgetary resources. So, if you hear about specific fund-raising events coming up, I hope you will consider a donation to the cause.

I'm reminded of an old hymn: "Count your blessings name them one by one, count your blessings see what God has done."

Jerry Fuller, Lay Leader



Your trustees have had some difficult decisions to make this past year, but with your support and trust we continue to do what keeps our church building functioning and our congregation comfortable and viable. With that having been said we need to let you know that we are facing some expensive repairs to our aging facility.

First of all, Pastor Rick's office roof continues to leak profusely when it gets wet because it is a flat roof, and flat roofs don't do well in our Michigan climate.

Second of all, we have extensive water leakage on the east side of our basement when it rains. After one of our major storms this past year we had to spend approximately \$1,000 to get rid of water that had run into the basement and dry the area out so that it did not grow mold. Trying to discover the cause of the leakage has taken many hours, and it appears that with some eaves trough work over that area we may begin to see some relief.

Thirdly, we have a sizable parking lot that needs to be tended to on a regular basis so that it does not fall into ruin. The cracks in the lot are getting wider and more dangerous. We obtained two estimates this fall which included filling in the large cracks and sealing the asphalt.

And our fourth concern is that we have some major electrical issues in our sanctuary. We do not feel that they are dangerous at this time, but they will need to be addressed.

So where do we go from here? We like to refer to this as the "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head" campaign. To a great extent we truly do have raindrops that keep falling on our heads, and we need to focus on raising enough money to fix these annoying and destructive problems. Please bear with us as we reach out to you, our small and yet ever-generous congregation as we ask for your help once again. Mayflower has yet to face a financial hurdle we have not been able to conquer, but these issues are not ones we can resolve within our normal budget. We realize that we cannot fix everything on our list immediately, so we will be approaching this over a two-year period of time, taking care of our most pressing issues first. There will be more details coming to you soon. We hope that you will be able to help.

Board of Trustees



Music Department

We hope that you had a chance to hear some lovely singing and ringing in December. We always strive to make Advent and Christmas a meaningful part of year. We had several carol-sings, despite our one ice day cancellation. I am so glad that we could have our Christmas Eve service together.

Dr. Rick is preaching on the verses taken from our beautiful stained glass windows, and the choir will be enhancing those verses with anthems from our music library. It will be a joy to work together on this project.

Your musical abilities are welcome in this church; there is room for you! You don't have to be perfect; if you are pretty sure that you can match pitch, see me!

We are planning to have a Dinner-Talent Show on February 22 at 6:00 pm. We would very much like to have acts from outside of our church, as well as our own talent. I have already asked a fine folk-dulcimer player, and Sharon Graham is calling her contacts. We are planning to repeat the three types of pasta menu previously served. There will also be a silent auction.

This can be a fun and strong fundraiser for Mayflower; thanks!

God Bless Your New Year!

Chrisann

8 year-old's Explanation of God

—By Danny Dutton

Written by an 8 year old from Chula Vista, CA, for his third grade homework assignment. The assignment was to explain God. I just wonder if any of us could do as well?

One of God's main jobs is making people. He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth.

He doesn't make grownups, just babies. I think because they are smaller and easier to make. That way he doesn't have to take up his valuable time teaching them to talk and walk. He can just leave that to mothers and fathers.

God's second most important job is listening to prayers. An awful lot of this goes on, since some people, like preachers and things, pray at times beside bedtime. God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or TV because of this .

Because he hears everything, there must be a terrible lot of noise in his ears, unless he has thought of a way to turn it off.

God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps Him pretty busy. So you shouldn't go wasting his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for something they said you couldn't have.

Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't think there are any in Chula Vista. At least there aren't any who come to our church.

Jesus is God's Son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and performing miracles and trying to teach the people who didn't want to learn about God. They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him. But he was good and kind, like his father, and he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said O.K.

His dad (God) appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work on earth so he told him he didn't have to go out on the road anymore. He could stay in heaven. So he did. And now he helps his dad out by listening to prayers and seeing things which are important for God to take care of and which ones he can take care of himself without having to bother God. Like a secretary, only more important.

You can pray anytime you want and they are sure to help you because they got it worked out so one of them is on duty all the time.

Mayflower Financial News

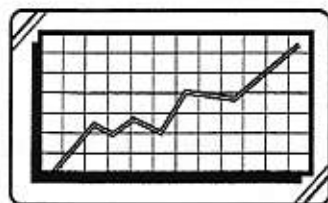
For the Annual Report for 2013, I included a summary of the church's fundraising for the year. I came up with three categories: Events, Special Projects and Building Use.

We made \$9,676.35 for various events that were held which included nine 2nd Saturday Suppers.

For Special Projects, we were able to raise funds to remove the dead ash tree, purchase a new riding lawnmower, send three youth to camp and one to NACCC's Annual Meeting and support several local mission projects for a total of \$7,005.25 donated.

Lastly, we welcomed Word of Life to our Church for a shared use arrangement and with other building use we added \$6,037.

The total for all this activity amounted to \$22,718.60. It is amazing how much our church family can accomplish with the generosity of their time, talent and funds to support the work of our church.



A brief summary of our finances for 2013:

Income:	\$ 87,417.62
Expenses:	91,876.62
	- \$ 4,459.00

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$13,047.89
Bequest Funds Savings	4,008.94
Memorial Fund CD	5,492.66
CD Savings	22,298.56
	\$44,848.05

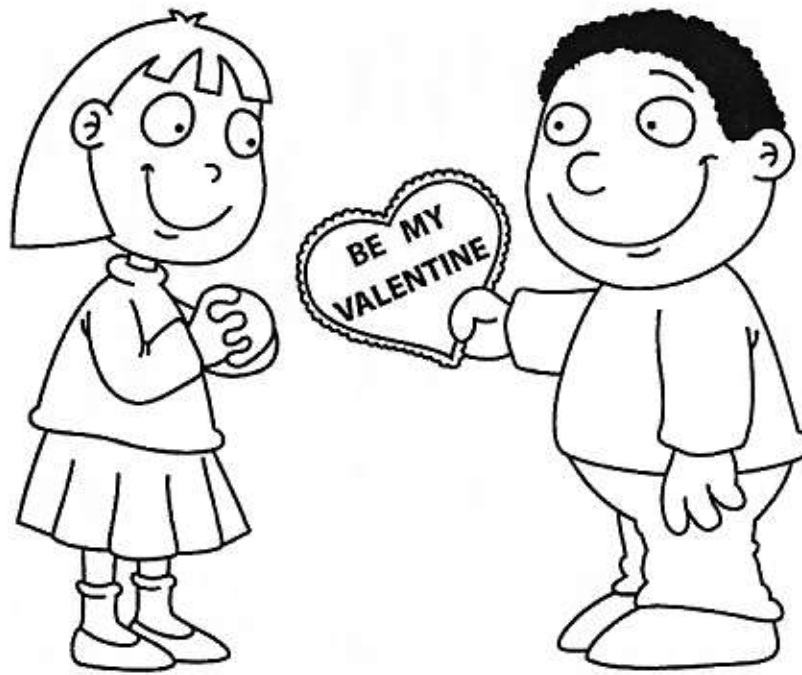
Linda Wheeler, Treasurer



*Dates to remember in
February*

- 2/2 Food collection for the
 Salvation Army*
- 2/8 Second Saturday
 Supper*
- 2/10 Trustees Meeting - noon*
- 2/14 Valentine's Day*
- 2/15 Deadline for March
 Mayflower Notes*
- 2/16 Prudential Council -
 Noon*
- 2/17 President's Day -
 Office open*
- 2/22 Italian Dinner and
 Variety Show 6 p.m.*





MONTH of FEBRUARY

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	~ ~				~ ~	1
2 Food collection for Salvation Army	3	4	5	6 Handbells 5:50 pm Choir 7:30 pm	7	8 Second Saturday Supper 5 pm
9 Trustees Meeting noon	10	11	12	13 Handbells 5:50 pm Choir 7:30 pm	14 Valentine's Day	15 Deadline for Mayflower Notes
16 Prudential Council noon	17 President's Day – Office open	18	19	20 Handbells 5:50 pm Choir 7:30 pm	21	22 Italian Dinner and Variety Show 6 pm
23	24	25	26	27 Handbells 5:50 pm Choir 7:30 pm	28	