

Mayflower Congregational Church

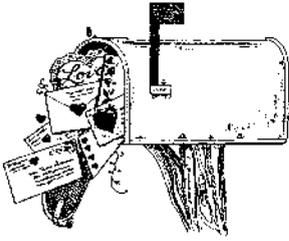


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Rev. Mark McCormick
Pastor



What's happening at Mayflower in February...

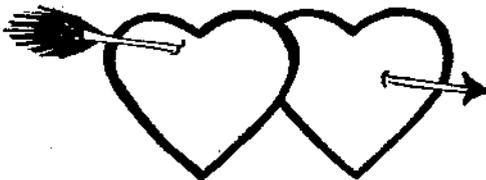
2/9 Second Saturday Supper - 5:00 p.m.

2/10 Trustees - Noon

2/14 Valentines' Day

2/15 Deadline for March Mayflower Notes

2/17 Prudential Council - Noon



Pastor Mark's Musings

Hello, Mayflower family! As I write, the weather forecast indicates a change from our seasonal winter (so far), to the possibility of some storms followed by plunging temperatures. Maybe by February we will be returning to a very bearable winter with seasonal temps. Perhaps the groundhog will not see his shadow this year. We can only hope.

The weather is a good example of things we cannot change. We have the option of changing our location to a warmer climate, whether temporary or permanently, but we cannot change the weather. The happiest people in the world are those who recognize things we have some degree of control over and that which cannot be changed by human striving or effort. This understanding should help us to pray. The first thing to remember is that we cannot change God. When we pray, however, we can expect to be changed. Secondly, when we pray for people, it will help us become less selfish and more compassionate toward others. We will become motivated, then, to BE the answer rather than wait for the answer. Thirdly, when we pray for ourselves, our focus should be on our attitude and perspective rather than mere circumstances.

We all hope for miracles to happen in our lives. We sometimes pray for a miracle. But when I look back in my life, the greatest of miracles have happened because of the faithfulness of God's people. Let us all pray for the continuing ability to be faithful to God, and faithful to all those in our lives who deserve and need our love, concern and prayers.

Keep up the good work, Mayflower. May we become the miracles for each other!

In God's faithful service,

Pastor Mark



Music Notes from Barb Fuller

For a birthday present this past November my mom gave to me one of her most favorite books entitled My Heart Lies South written by Elizabeth Borton de Trevino, an American woman who married into a traditional Mexican family, living in Monterrey, Mexico, after their marriage in 1935, moving to Mexico City in 1941, and then living her final years in Cuernavaca, Morelos.

This was such a touching story for me and a welcome break from the huge amounts of negativity I hear every day. There were no politics or violence spoken of, just the description of the fascinating new culture she was exposed to and her adaptation to it. It was a peaceful escape.

When I finished the book yesterday, it dawned on me that I needed to write my newsletter article. My mind went immediately to the hymn "Pescador de Hombres" (Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore). My first instinct was that it was a Mexican hymn, but upon further research, I discovered that it was written by Cesareo Gabarain, a Spanish priest and composer of liturgical songs. Coincidentally, he was alive during the time that Elizabeth Borton de Trevino was.

I believe that I thought of this particular hymn because when I sing it, I get the same gentle and peaceful feelings I got as I read My Heart Lies South:

Lord, You have come to the lakeshore looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones; You only asked me to follow humbly.

Chorus: O Lord, with Your eyes You have searched me, and while smiling have spoken my name; now my boat's left on the shoreline behind me; by Your side I will seek other seas.

You know so well my possessions; my boat carries no gold and no weapons; You will find there my nets and labor. *Chorus*

You need my hands, full of caring through my labors to give others rest, and constant love that keeps on loving. *Chorus*

You, who have fished other oceans, ever longed for by souls who are waiting, my loving friend, as thus You call me. *Chorus*



Lay Leader's Message

As I write this message for the February newsletter, I am looking forward to serving as your lay leader for this new church year.

Checking in with Google, I found this description of a lay leader's job: "An effective lay leader functions as the primary representative and role model of Christian discipleship and faith lived out in the church and in daily life. The lay leader works with the pastor to fulfill the mission and vision of the congregation."

So – as your lay leader, I will work within that framework and strive to represent you as best I can. Please remember that I am there for you.

Jerry Fuller has done an excellent job meeting the challenges of this position during the past year and I will try to keep the status quo going.

— Sue Mott



Check-Out Romance

I met my husband while I was working in a science library. He came in every week to read the latest journals and eventually decided to take out the librarian instead of the books.

After a year and a half of dating, he showed up at the library and started rummaging through my desk. I asked what he was looking for, but he didn't answer. Finally he unearthed one of the rubber stamps I used to identify reference books.

"Since I couldn't find the right engagement ring," he said, "this will have to do," and he firmly stamped my hand. Across my knuckles, in capital letters, it read "NOT FOR CIRCULATION."

— Contributed by Ruth E. Chodrow



Mayflower Financial News

The January Second Saturday Supper was a complete sell-out, with proceeds of \$778. Thank you to everyone who came to eat and work. All help is much appreciated.

We have wrapped up the contributions for the Paradise, CA, Congregational Church which was destroyed by the Camp Fire in early November. A check for \$1750, which included the Christmas Eve collection and other individual donations, was sent to them in early January. The Baby Boxes for Haiti outreach project is being continued through the end of January; as of this writing, we have donations of \$750 plus a number of purchased items for the layettes. The Mitten Tree will continue through the end of February. Your support for all of these projects is nothing short of amazing! Thank you so much, Mayflower!

The following is a summary of our finances as of December 31:

Income:	\$ 11,476.97
Expenses:	<u>9,684.06</u>
	\$ 1,792.91

YTD for Twelve Months:

Income:	\$117,218.36
Expenses:	<u>103,656.15</u>
	\$ 13,562.21

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 9,720.62
Savings:	46,541.60
Heat Fund Savings:	20,847.31
Savings CD:	<u>22,390.08</u>
	\$ 99,499.61

A detailed report is available in the brochure rack near the church office. If you'd like more information or have questions, please see me.



— Linda Wheeler, Treasurer

February

BIRTHDAYS

2/1 - Nancy McKay

2/9 - Lisa Jones

2/16 - Mark Holmes

2/21 - Dick McKay

2/22 - Gwen Tisdale

2/26 - Candy Bywater

ANNIVERSARY

2/18 - Janet Hershey & Bob Felter (35 years)

HEAD USHER

Candy Bywater

OUTREACH FOCUS

Mitten Tree

