

# Mayflower Notes...

## November 2009

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### Consecration Sunday and Luncheon



November 15th will be the highlight of our Stewardship Campaign for this year. We will once again attempt to bring the financial needs of the church before the congregation for the first three Sundays in November in the form of "In Search of Buck". The

campaign will once again culminate with a consecration celebration in the form of another delicious dinner provided by Chef Norm. PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND!!!

We are hoping to provide raises for some of our hard-working staff next year.

Give this prayerful consideration and help us tip the scales to the glory of God.



### Walter Ellis Harvest Festival

The Walter Ellis Harvest Festival will occur on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 22nd this year. Many of us never met Walter Ellis. He was a member of Mayflower and he strongly believed in giving back to his community. He started the Harvest Festival as a way to feed people who were hungry in the Lansing area.

We will be collecting canned goods and donations for this worthwhile yearly event. Please designate your checks for the Harvest Festival.

Catch the Mayflower spirit!



### Dates to remember in November...



- |                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| <u>November 1</u>  | All Saints Day         |
| <u>November 11</u> | Veteran's Day          |
| <u>November 14</u> | Second Saturday Supper |
| <u>November 15</u> | Consecration Sunday    |
| <u>November 26</u> | Thanksgiving Day       |
| <u>November 29</u> | First Sunday of Advent |



## From the Pastor's Desk

### 22 Important Reasons for Giving

I was at the Stewardship Seminar offered by the National Association of Congregational Church in September, and Ron Chewning, who was the morning speaker, offered the following scriptural reasons for giving. If you want a good personal Bible study on Stewardship/Giving, look up the scripture verses and see what God's Word says about giving, the joy of giving and the blessings of giving to His Church. I believe you will enjoy it. I would love some feedback on which one you think is most important. – Pastor Rick



Giving is an important part of

being a Christian. When God's people give, they mirror the nature of God. Through your faithful giving, you become more like Him. God's giving nature is revealed to you through His Word. He gives physical life, and through Jesus, He gives life forever with Him. Through faith, which He supplies, you are enabled to give. The follow are reasons that you, as God's child, need to give:

1. Giving shows your gratitude and thanksgiving for who God is and what He has done for you. (Genesis 14:17-20)
2. Giving helps break the power that money can have over you. (Luke 12:13-21; 18:18-30; 19:1-10; I Timothy 6:9,10)
3. Giving enables you to trust that Jesus will provide for your needs. (Luke 21:1-4; Philippians 4:19; Hebrews 13:5)
4. Giving acknowledges God's ownership. (Psalms 24:1; 50:8-15; Haggai 2:8)
5. Giving is returning to God what He has already given you. (1 Corinthians 4:7)

6. Giving demonstrates your faith and obedience. (John 14:23; James 2:14-17)
7. Giving helps the needy. (Galatians 6:10; Romans 12:13)
8. Giving gives you the opportunity to experience the joy in giving. (Acts 20:35)
9. Giving shows your love, in Christ, for others. (Matthew 20:28; 22:27-29; 25:40)
10. Giving helps provide equality among people. (2 Corinthians 8:13-15)
11. Giving is an act of worship. (Proverbs 3:9)
12. Giving reminds you Who God is. (Leviticus 27:30)
13. Giving faithfully, cheerfully, and generously provides a Christian witness and encouragement to others. (Matthew 5:16; Acts 4:32-37)
14. Giving allows you to receive more of God's blessings. (Proverbs 3:9,10; 11:24,25; Malachi 3:8-12; 2 Corinthians 9:6)
15. Giving strengthens the Church and enables you to participate in extending God's kingdom. (1 Chronicles 29:2,3; Acts 4:34,35)
16. Giving helps you stay connected to the Lord. (1 Corinthians 16:2)
17. Giving gives God the opportunity to supply you with more to give. (2 Corinthians 9:8,11)
18. Giving helps you control your self-interests. (Exodus 20:3-6; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5)
19. Giving removes an obstacle for spiritual growth. (Matthew 6:21,24)
20. Giving give first priority to your relationship with Jesus. (John 14:15)
21. Giving imitates God. (John 3:16; Ephesians 5:1)
22. Giving stores up treasures in Heaven. (Matthew 6:19-21)



The secret of a good sermon is to have a good beginning and a good ending; and to have the two as close together as possible.

- George Burns

Santa Claus has the right idea. Visit people only once a year.

- Victor Borge

Be careful about reading health books. You may die of a misprint.

- Mark Twain

## Mayflower Financial News

The Income and Expenses Summary for September 2009 is listed below. A more detailed report is available in the literature rack at church. The church rummage sale was very successful. \$966.98 was raised for the upstairs kitchen update. Our first 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Supper served 85 with net proceeds of \$ 618.19.

Linda Wheeler

### August 2009

<b>Income</b>	
Contributions	5,512.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday Supper	618.19
Rummage Sale	966.98
Building Use	375.00
Flowers	30.00
Choir Music	28.00
Gift Donations	345.00
Niklas Bequest	5,000.00
Memorials	795.00
Interest Income	4.95
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 13,675.12</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>	
Wages (5 employees)	4,258.32
Employer taxes	171.48
Guest Minister	150.00
Guest Organists	100.00
Guest Musician	35.00
Registration/Conferences	175.00
Mileage	66.00
Choir Music	134.19
Maintenance Inside/Outside	85.08
Utilities (gas, electricity & water)	487.89
Supplies (custodial, kitchen, office)	47.95
Church/Office	216.79
Bank Service Charge	1.70
Flowers	29.95
Advent House	52.93
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$6,012.28</b>
<b>Excess Income/Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 7,662.84</b>
<b>Total Funds (savings &amp; checking)</b>	<b>\$50,272.25</b>

## Music Musings

Happy Autumn! The trees are showing some fabulous colors just now. I saw a whole row of reds on Shaw Lane. In another place, two trees were making a lovely pair of dark red and lively yellow color. They remind me to keep my eyes open to the beauty of Creation! "He speaks to me and my heart soars..."

The choir recently sang the gospel -swing piece "He Never Failed Me Yet." Lyrics include "I will sing of God's mercy—every day, every hour, he gives me power—I will sing and give thanks to Thee—for all the dangers, toils, and snares that he has brought me out...." "What a joy to thank God with this anthem. It is the only piece I know that talks about Shadrach, Mishach, and Abendigo (Old Testament guys-went into the furnace rather than to deny God); what a great way to learn some cool names! We look forward to praising God and offering our efforts to his work.

Just a bit more thanks—to the wonderful success of the offices project and for the recent rummage sale—thanks to the many people who help make it all happen. Little bits and big bits all add to a nice amount of something! We dedicate our efforts not to ourselves, but to His work.

We are looking forward to more musical joy this Fall. Amen!



Chrisann

## Thanksgiving Baskets

Mayflower will be filling and delivering two Thanksgiving baskets again this year. Volunteers will be needed to deliver the baskets during the week of Thanksgiving.

Look for the sign-up sheets and information on the board by the office. If you need more information please contact Noreen Boes at 694-0754.



## TAKING CARE OF WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU

Stewardship – taking care of all God has given you. When summer arrives with all its glorious colors, it is easy to be thankful for the world around us. Nature’s bright sunlight makes it easier to see the “bright side” of life.

But we need to be thankful for the gray days also. Even the very darkest days can be cause for us to be thankful. Too much of the same thing and we get so accustomed to it that we don’t even notice what is happening. The rainy days cause us to notice the sunshine.

As the economy tightens and unemployment rises, the future looks bleak if you dwell on all the bad news. But try dwelling on the good things. Were you able to pay the utility bill? Say, “Thank you Lord. I am grateful.” Did you have enough food for this meal? Say “Thank you Lord. I am grateful.” Did someone give you a hug today? Say, “Thank you Lord. I am grateful.” Did you read the Bible today? Say, “Thank you Lord. I am grateful.”

Stewardship is taking care of what God has given us. But it is also being grateful and giving thanks for what you have. Always give thanks for what you have, be it a lot or just a very little bit. Saying Thank You makes you think about the value of something. And if you value something, you take better care of it. You would not throw something of value in the mud or trash. Don’t throw your thoughts there either.

Even in the dark times and the gray days say “Thank you Lord. I am grateful.” Keep repeating this phrase throughout the day and you will feel gratefulness for God and the stewardship you are able to exhibit. Profess to God, the Lord above, who always walks with you, talks with you and waits for you, your thankfulness.

**Stewardship** – giving first to God. He will not fail you, nor leave you alone. Ever!

I Chronicles 28:20

David also said to Solomon his son, “Be strong and Courageous, and do the work. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God, my God, is with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the LORD is finished.

Marie Steele  
Admin. Assistant to the Dean of CFTS  
Olivet College



It’s October already - my year as Lay Leader is three-quarters over. Yet it seems like its just begun. The time has just flown by. It constantly amazes me what the May-flower people accomplish. You are all just fantastic people!

However, it is time for someone new to think about stepping up to become Lay Leader Elect for next following Rilla McHarris who will be our new Lay Leader for 2010. We will also need to fill positions as Deacons and Trustees. If you are interested in knowing more about the available positions, please see either Dr. Rick or me.

“God is Good...All the Time - All the Time...God is Good!” Noreen and I were introduced to this idea several years ago by the Rev. Lottie Jones Hood of the Historic First Congregational Church of Detroit, MI. After repeating this expression many times over the years with Lottie (whose church is worth visiting, but that’s another subject), we have come to believe this phrase very strongly. “God is Good...All the Time - All the Time...God is Good!” I am really glad Pastor Rick introduced this concept in his sermon last Sunday. I sincerely hope he continues this thought.

Dave



### Head Usher

Naida Kenyon

### Outreach Focus

Mitten Tree, Food Bank (For Salvation Army)

