

Mayflower Notes...



Mayflower Congregational Church

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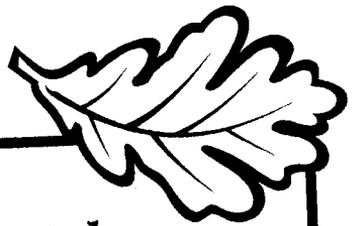
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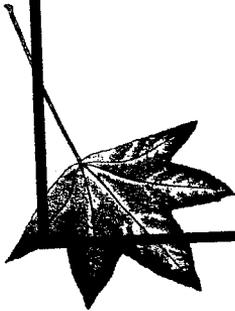
Dr. Rick Martin

Pastor



Dates to remember in October...

<u>October 9</u>	<i>Second Saturday Supper</i>
<u>October 10</u>	<i>Crop Walk</i>
<u>October 11</u>	<i>Columbus Day</i>
<u>October 29</u>	<i>Ragtime Piano Festival</i>
<u>October 31</u>	<i>Consecration Sunday</i> <i>Advent House lunches</i> <i>Grand Haven Manor Service</i> <i>Halloween</i>



Head Usher

Naida Kenyon/Lorraine Finison

Outreach Focus

Crop Walk, Food Bank, Winter Coats



Mayonnaise Jar & Two Coffees

When things in your life seem almost too much to handle, when 24 hours in a day are not enough, remember the mayonnaise jar and the 2 Coffees. A professor stood before his philosophy class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, he wordlessly picked up a very large and empty mayonnaise jar and proceeded to fill it with 20 golf balls. He then asked the students if the jar was full. They agreed that it was. The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. He shook the jar lightly. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the golf balls. He then asked the students again if the jar was full. They agreed it was. The professor next picked up a box of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else. He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded with a unanimous “yes.” The professor then produced two Coffees from under the table and poured the entire contents into the jar, effectively filling the empty space between the grains of sand. The students laughed. “Now,” said the professor as the laughter subsided, “I want you to recognize that this jar represents your life. The golf balls are the important things — your family, your children, your health, your friends and your favorite passions — and if everything else was lost and only they remained, your life would still be full. The pebbles are the other things that matter like your job, your house and your car. The sand is everything else — the small stuff. “If you put the sand into the jar first,” he continued, “there is no room for the pebbles or the golf balls. The same goes for life. If you spend all your time and energy on the small stuff you will never have room for the things that are important to you. Pay attention to the things that are critical to your happiness. Spend time with your children. Spend time with your parents. Visit with grandparents. Take time to get medical checkups. Take your spouse out to dinner. Play another 18. There will always be time to clean the house and fix the disposal. Take care of the golf balls first — the things that really matter. Set your priorities. The rest is just sand. One of the students raised her hand and inquired what the Coffee represented. The professor smiled and said, “I’m glad you asked: the Coffee just shows you that no matter how full your life may seem, there is always room for a couple of Coffees with a friend.



From Rilla McHarris

Mayflower NOTES article for October 2010

From The Pastor's Desk

Thank God Fall has arrived! I actually do like Fall. I do not like where Fall leads, which is Winter. But that isn't why I am excited that Fall is here. I believe God has some wonderful things planned for Mayflower Congregational Church this Fall and Winter. A scripture that is sticking out to me lately is 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."* God always wants this for His people, not that we always put ourselves in a place where God is allowed to bring this to pass.

However, I believe this Fall and Winter God is going to direct some blessings towards the Mayflower Church family. One of those areas of blessings, I believe, is going to be in new people coming to church. Several of us have been praying for new people, especially younger families, to begin coming and eventually becoming involved even in leadership roles. I believe now is the time for us (the Mayflower family) to begin and/or continue to **invite people** to our church services. I believe the Holy Spirit will work with us and new people and families will find a great church home like we once did. Be an instrument for God and bring someone to church.

Last month, a lady attended a morning service at Mayflower. No one invited or brought her. I asked her how she ended up at Mayflower that morning and she said she was watching TV the night before and saw Mayflower Church advertised and decided to come to service! Obviously, the Holy Spirit is at work even when we are not (we have no TV ads that I know of) – but I think for the most part, He will work with us: we invite, He touches their hearts so they will come and receive.

I believe other wonderful things will be happening too. It will be fun to hang around Mayflower Congregational Church this Fall and Winter to see what great things God will do for us. See you in Church.



Humble Stewards

By Ron Chewing

As stewards, we are the recipients and caretakers of God's goodness, love, mercy, and grace. Stewards are managers of God's creation. We acknowledge God as the owner; therefore, we are to act not as owners but as managers because our lives and resources are simply on loan from Him.

The book of Daniel gives an account of a man who failed to recognize God as Creator and provider and exalted himself. King Nebuchadnezzar, walking on the roof of "his" royal palace, surveying "his" kingdom, was overcome by pride as he announced, *"Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty"* (Daniel 4:30)? He thought he was asking a rhetorical question, but God condemned him to live like an animal as a consequence of his pride.

Pride is destructive. It destroys gratitude to God for all His kindness to us. It destroys our desire and ability to serve others. It destroys contentment for it feeds our competitive nature so that we are not satisfied with just being wealthy or intelligent, but we want to be wealthier and more intelligent than anyone else.

Pride has no place in the life of a servant. First Peter 5:6 reads, "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand that He may lift you up in due time." It is God alone Who can exalt us (Psalm 75:7). If Christ Himself, God's only begotten Son, humbled Himself, should we not follow His example and humble ourselves? Because Christ humbled Himself, God exalted Him (Philippians 2:9)

David, the shepherd-king, put our situation in proper perspective: *"When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, what is man that You are mindful of him, the son of man that You care for him"* (Psalm 8:3-4)? The inference is that we are insignificant, yet David goes on to remind us of what we can be proud: *"You made [us] ruler over the works of Your hands; You put everything under [our] feet."*

Humility allows us to accept our smallness and God's goodness. In the words of Martin Luther, humility is the decision to "let God be God". We are stewards through humility. We are to honor Him with what we have, what we are, and what He will make of us.



Main by: Bill Greer, Chicken Soup for the Veteran's Soul

One Sunday morning I heard my minister say if you want result from prayer, pray for thirty days without ceasing. I didn't know why it was thirty days, but I was willing to give it a try.

The following became my daily prayer: I am available, Lord, to be used by You each day. Guide me, precious Lord, and lead me in what I say and do. May my words and actions be a witness that You are living in me. To the one that is lonely, may I be a friend. To those with heavy burdens, help me to meet their needs. Lord, I do not want fame or fortune. My prayer is that You will use me to glorify your name. I know I don't have much to offer, but I will give You my all. Guide me to be what You want me to be. Amen

On the twenty-first day of this prayer, CPR took on a new meaning for me. I was working an extremely busy twelve-hour night shift in Labor and Delivery. I had just sat down for my first break when a phone call came from my friend working in the Emergency Room. I barely recognized her urgent voice. An eighteen-year-old boy had been brought to the ER for alcohol and drug overdose. The young man was very close to death and they had done all they could do to help him. The father of this boy was requesting a priest or minister and they were having difficulty locating one that could come to the ER quickly. My friend stated, "We know you're a Christian and we need you to come and try to comfort this father. Please help."

Reluctantly, I said I would come down. As I waited for the elevator my thoughts became very judgmental and frustration welled up inside me. Then I remembered the prayer I'd been praying. I walked into the ER and approached the father. Taking his hand, I silently led him to the chapel. Before I could even say, "I am not a minister," this six-foot, two-hundred-twenty-pound man sank into the chair and became a broken hearted child.

Through his non-stop sobbing he spoke, "Christian, pray for Raymond. I remember the first time I held my boy. I felt so proud and I just kept saying, 'I have a son.' As the years passed those tiny feet became bigger and walked away from his family's love and entered a strange, hardened, and destructive world. Tonight, too much alcohol and an overdose of drugs are taking his life. It's as though he wants to rebel against everything his family stood for. He knew what he was doing was wrong. Sometimes he seemed so afraid, but he wouldn't stop. Now it is too late. Christian, you have to pray for Raymond."

Those large hands trembled in mine and as I looked into his eyes, I mourned with him. Silence fell between us, as I searched for the words that would comfort this crumbling tower of a man. I felt so inadequate. I wanted to scream, "Lord it has only been twenty-one days since I began that prayer! I am not ready for this!" Time was running out and I knew I couldn't stall any longer. I clutched his hands, now wet with tears, and began to pray. The words came easy, much to my surprise. I finished praying with him and went to Raymond's bedside. I took his cold, lifeless hand and once again began to pray. "Lord I am asking for a miracle and I know You can do it."

I stayed with them both until Raymond was taken to Intensive Care. I visited Raymond on a daily basis and continued to pray for him. Eight days passed with little improvement.

On the ninth day I entered the ICU and a miracle had taken place. Raymond was awake and talking with his father. CPR had taken on a new meaning for me: "Christian Pray for Raymond". As I left the ICU with tears falling down my face, I realized, today is the 30th day of my prayer.

Now I not only believe in miracles, I depend on them.

Asociacion Civil Cristiana Congregational Argentina



Rev. Teodoro Stricker and his wife, Teresa, have served the Congregational Church of Jardin, America, for 30 years. Concerned with the plight of the thousands of poor Spanish descendants living in poverty on the outskirts of the city, Rev. Stricker began mission work ten years ago to bring the gospel as well as social concern to these people.

The Mission's primary goals are: To bring the life changing news of Jesus Christ to all people through preaching the Gospel, to share the love and compassion of Christ through spiritual nurture and material assistance, and to help families become self sufficient and gain self-respect.

Rev. Stricker and members of his church have started five mission outposts around the countryside to help meet the spiritual and social needs of the community. On any given week, three to five hundred children and adults attend the worship services, Sunday Schools, and community outreach programs offered by the mission. Partnership Children are available for individuals and churches to support. A monthly gift of \$40 will help these children with basic needs as well as help with job training which is greatly needed. Each Partnership Child will correspond with their sponsor over the course of the year.

A new church building, measuring 12 by 18 meters, has been completed. God's Garden Project is a community garden where residents are taught how to grow fruits, vegetables, and raise livestock. Teaching self-sufficiency is the goal of the Garden Project. The Argentine Mission has opened a medical clinic to assist with medical needs of impoverished and elderly. Rev. Dr. Harding Stricker, son of the mission directors, serves as the clinic physician

Welcome to the new church year!

Our Sunday School kicked off with a bang! We had four kids participate in a lock-in on September 11th. We made pizzas and sewed "sit-upons" so we could enjoy some outdoor lessons. We played games, watched some movies, and had root beer floats. A pancake breakfast closed out our lock-in - we had a lot of fun!

In September, we studied David and Goliath, and the kids got a chance to "slay" Goliath themselves, thanks to the water balloon slingshot an angel left in my box! To continue our destructiveness, we cracked the pinatas that we made this summer in Fun-day School.

We have big plans for the year, with the older kids separating out for more practical lessons on how faith can be a comfort and a guide through the difficult teen years. Mrs. Wheeler and Mrs. Mac have lots of fun crafts, puzzles, games, and songs to entertain our younger kids. We plan on resuming choir when the beginning rush settles down.

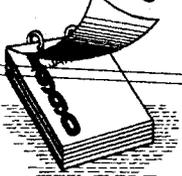
I am very excited about another year as our Mayflower kids grow and change. I welcome new kids, too, so if you know of a neighbor who needs some Sunday fun, please bring them along!

Liz Canfield

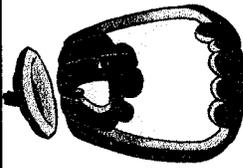


Consecration Sunday

The Consecration celebration at the end of our annual pledge campaign will be Sunday, October 31st. Watch the bulletin for announcements. There will be a mailing and reservation information during the month of October.



October 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Communion	4 Quiet Worship Time 6:30 pm	5	6	7 Hanbells 6 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm	8	9 Second Sstursday Supper 5 pm
10 CROP Walk 2 pm	11 Quiet Worship Time 6:30 pm	12 Trustees 7 pm	13	14 Hanbells 6 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm	15 Deadline for November newsletter items	16
17	18 Quiet Worship Time 6:30 pm	19	20	21 Hanbells 6 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm	22	23
24	25 Quiet Worship Time 6:30 pm	26	27	28 Hanbells 6 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm	29 Ragtime Plano Festival	30
Advent House Grand Haven Manor Halloween Reformation Sunday Consecration Sunday	31					

