

Mayflower Congregational Church



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Dr. Rick Martin

Pastor

October



BIRTHDAYS

10/19 - Laura Anderson Keeney(93)

10/22 - Tieler Graham

10/22 - Trace Graham

10/26 - Saralu Chamberlain (96)

ANNIVERSARIES

10/4 - Tom & Barb Rich (35)

10/23 - Kim & Lorraine Finison

10/30 - Rick & Barbara Martin

Head Ushers

Lois Ries



Outreach Focus

Crop Walk, Shoebox Gifts

From The Pastor's Desk



The Joy of Giving

October is Mayflower Church's Stewardship Campaign: the three week the annual miracle where Jesus and the Mayflower family together raise the budget needed for the following year. Beginning October 11th we start praying about what Jesus wants us to give in 2016. It is okay to begin praying before that. For three Sundays we explore what the Bible says about giving and on October 25th we will receive our pledges and celebrate with a meal after service.

The miracle: in 3 weeks Jesus moves on our hearts, we respond accordingly, and our next year's budget is raised so we can concentrate on more important Kingdom matters, like ministering to and helping people and being a blessing. With churches all around us struggling financially, even closing their doors, annually Jesus performs this financial miracle at Mayflower Church. Why? Because of your cheerful giving heart and spirit of cooperation and working together. What a great bunch of people you are!

Pray – give and pledge joyfully – watch what Jesus does through us. Not only financially, which is going to be wonderful, but in the lives and hearts of people He is going to touch through us this year (this is the true miracle). It is going to be a great year. I'm excited!

Malachi 3:10

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

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.”

Musical Notes

Have you ever wondered how hymns are selected here at Mayflower for any given Sunday? I remember my grandmother, who was the choir director and organist for many years at Calvary United Methodist Church in Jackson, telling me that hymn selection there depended on the present minister. Some pastors wanted to choose all of the hymns basing them on what they were preaching about while others wanted to select them because they were their own personal favorites. Some pastors wanted to choose hymns with her assistance, and in the case of my father-in-law who was pastor there for a number of years while my grandmother also worked at that church, left most of the hymn-selecting up to her. Occasionally he would make a suggestion, but for the most part he wanted her to choose them.

So how do we select hymns here at Mayflower you might wonder? To begin with, Pastor Rick has told me he is happy with the selections I make, so I choose the hymns like my father-in-law did with my grandmother. Perhaps you have noticed in our Pilgrim Hymnals that at the bottom of each hymn page there is a one-word designation of the subject of that hymn. When Pastor Rick tells me what the theme of a sermon is going to be I try to choose at least one hymn for that Sunday that nods to the theme. I also look for hymns that are seasonally appropriate as well as lively hymns to begin and end our services with if at all possible.

Something else I keep in mind as I select hymns is that we own two hymnals, the Pilgrim Hymnal and The Cokesbury Worship Hymnal. Rilla and Bill McHarris purchased our brown hymnals a number of years ago for Mayflower to replace copied hymnal packets that were kept in our pews. The brown hymnal tends to have more of what we think of as “the old chestnuts” and they conjure up nice memories for some folks in our congregation. The brown hymnals do not have subject designations on the hymn pages, but they do have a topical index in the back of the books that guide me.

Finally, as I look to what hymns to sing I refer to my own copies of our two hymnals. On the page of each hymn selected I write the date of each time we sing it. That way I can spread out the number of times we sing each hymn, allowing us to enjoy a variety of tunes and messages they bring us.

So there you have it – Sunday Hymn-Selecting 101. May your hymn-singing be ever-joyous, and if you ever wish to have a specific hymn sung, please feel free to let me know.

Barb



Mayflower Financial News

An appeal was made to the congregation to help Portland Congregational Church after their church was severely damaged by a tornado. A total of \$1,365 in donations were received to help them in their immediate needs to continue worship services. Our Sept. 2nd Saturday Supper was a sell-out with 106 meals being served.

A brief summary of our finances as of August 31, 2015:

Income:	\$ 6,687.38
Expenses:	7,193.92
	- \$ 506.54

YTD for Eight Months

Income:	\$ 72,018.02
Expenses:	56,730.52
	\$ 15,287.50

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 16,321.56
Bequest Funds Savings	19,012.00
Memorial Fund CD	5,496.18
CD Savings	22,310.11
	\$ 63,139.85

A more detailed report is available in the brochure rack near the church office.

Linda Wheeler
Treasurer



Sunday School Report

We've been getting off to a great start in Sunday School, with all four Graham boys keeping me hopping on the 20th! It's a lot more fun telling a children's story to actual children, and I really enjoy having little ones around to blurt out their non sequiturs.

The CROP walk is coming up this month, and I encourage you to pledge a walker or support this great cause in whatever way you can. Maggie and I are hoping to walk with Nero the Wonder Dog this year – although Nero doesn't really understand what true hunger is, he gets an inkling twice a day and finds it pretty scary! We are so blessed I don't even realize it – I can joke about something that thousands of people struggle with every day. Let's do our part to help the local food banks get stocked up for the season, and cash is one great way to do that.

We've had some newer faces coming to church lately, and I am so thrilled how our family continues to grow. I think it's the consistently good music and message from the front of the church, and the loving and welcoming hearts in the main body. Let's continue to do God's work in our daily lives and watch as our blessing continue to increase.

Liz



Attention all Mayflower Bell Ringers...

There will be no weekly rehearsals until November.. Rehearsals for the Mayflower/Plymouth bell rehearsals will continue until the performances.



The Eye of the Beholder

Two men were seriously ill. They occupied the same room in the hospital. One of them was lying in the bed near the only window in their room. Every day he was allowed to spend some time sitting up in his bed to help draining the fluid from lungs. The other man was forced to spend all his days flat on his back.

They talked a lot about their life, families, jobs, vacations. Every time, when the first man was sitting by the window, he described in details all that he saw outside the window. His roommate always looked for those moments, when his world was broadened and brightened up by the world outside.

Amazing views of a park with a beautiful lake could be seen from the window of their room. Children delightfully played among ducks and swans. Couples walked arm in arm among colourful flowers. Also the stunning city skyline could be seen.

When the man by the window had been thoroughly describing all that was happening outside the window, his roommate would close his eyes and imaged all the beautiful scenes of life that were told to him.

One night the man, whose bed was near the window, died peacefully during sleep and his roommate was very sad.

After some time, when the nurse came to visit him, he asked if he could be moved next to the window. The nurse agreed and kindly made the switch. When she left, the man slowly and painfully propped himself up on one elbow and took the first look at the world outside. He was stunned. The window faced a blank wall.

When the nurse came to visit him the next time, he told her about beautiful things outside the window that his roommate described him. The nurse replied that his roommate was a blind man. She said: „Probably he just tried to encourage you.“



The Cold Fusion Debacle

by

Wm. C. McHarris

People are funny animals. They believe what they want to believe. If they tell themselves something over and over enough times, they will truly believe it, no matter how outlandish it may be. And scientists, being fallible humans like everyone else, follow the same pattern and at times fall into the same sorts of trap. A good example of this was the “cold fusion” debacle some twenty-five years ago.

As most of you know, nuclear fusion is the world’s energy dream. It is the way the sun and stars produce most of their energy, fusing hydrogen into helium. As opposed to nuclear fission, it uses abundant starting materials and produces extremely little radioactive waste. The only difficulty is that at present it cannot be made economically feasible. Making fusion practicable will require a fundamental breakthrough, which could occur next year or fifty years down the road — we simply cannot predict when. So we are stuck with fission as a stop-gap, and although it is really much better than its terrible reputation would have us think, it does present all sorts of problems, including diverting materials to produce nuclear weapons.

In 1989 this all seemed about to change. A couple of analytical chemists — not nuclear chemists or physicists! — claimed to have produced “cold fusion,” i.e., they achieved a sustained nuclear fusion reaction at room temperature in a beaker in a conventional chemistry lab. (The main obstacle in producing fusion had been containment, for in stars it occurs at millions of degrees, and no container can withstand that sort of temperature, meaning that extreme magnetic fields had been the best, albeit expensive way to force the reactants together.)

The scientific world — and the news media — went wild! I was at the American Chemical Society meeting in Dallas where they announced their results, and it was like a circus. They had to move the talk to a much larger auditorium and to send it via closed-circuit TV to half a dozen additional venues. And shortly thereafter everybody and her brother jumped into the game, including many nuclear scientists, who should have known better. (We even had a group at the MSU Cyclotron Laboratory who wasted weeks of beam time and tens of thousands of dollars futilely trying to reproduce results.)

(continued Bill McHarris)

And funding agencies, against all odds, supported proposals without first having them reviewed. The idea of limitless, cheap energy was so enticing that scientists became dead drunk, not merely slightly intoxicated, by drinking it in.

Did the pair of analytical chemists cheat on purpose? I think not. They simply wanted so badly their results to be true that they convinced themselves they had analyzed everything correctly — and ignored unpleasant asides, including the fact that had they really achieved what they claimed, they would have been long dead from exposure to neutrons! And did their sheep-like followers admit blame? Of course not. Most of them would claim later that they thought it a hoax from the start — they were merely trying to expose it!

What has this to do with us? Simply this. Try not to believe a new fact or fad simply because it is appealing. Remember when chlorophyll was the cure-all and when lanolin grease was the best thing that had ever come down the pipe for your skin? It is difficult to avoid falling in with the crowd, especially if the crowd is attractive. But as Congregationalists, who have had a history of thinking for themselves, that's a tradition worth holding on to.

Murder Mystery Event



Come one, come all, and join us on Friday October 16th or Saturday October 17th for our first Mayflower Murder Mystery event! The residents of Storytown have all been invited to Mayflower Manor for the reading of the last will and testament of Colonel Reginald Mayflower, who recently passed away unexpectedly. Colonel Mayflower was an angry man, and he believed firmly in settling scores and ensuring people got what was coming to them. Did someone take out Colonel Mayflower before he could ruin a life? What secrets drove the Colonel to settle in Storyville and hide out in the Manor? If you've got what it takes to solve the mystery, or you just love to snack and enjoy a good story, then don't miss our event!

Tickets are \$25 apiece, but our more flamboyant members can find themselves part of the story with the purchase of an Integral Character ticket for \$35! Email mayflowermurdermystery@gmail.com for more information, and share our event on Facebook, or see Liz Canfield for more information. Anyone interested in volunteering for setup or cleanup please contact Liz

Thrift Sale

We are having another thrift sale October 30 and 31 (Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.). Yes, we know it's Halloween on Saturday! Please check around your house now to identify good, saleable things that you have but don't really need any more. Please have items clean and in working order or they don't sell well. Sometimes we have to throw things away--which we hate to do! If it's truly trash, just toss it out yourself. Kitchen items, jewelry, linens, books, clothes, and children's items are good sellers, but you never know what will sell. Remember, too, to invite friends, family, co-workers, etc., to donate items. We'll be glad to have them! Finally, be sure to plan on coming to shop yourself. You may find some treasures! We often say that we are our own best customers!

Plan to hold your stuff and bring it in after the Consecration Lunch on October 25. We also need a lot of help to set up, run the sale, and clean up after the sale, so please mark your calendars now for that week. Set up will be 10-Noon (or so) on Monday-Thursday (October 26-29). See Lorraine or Ann to volunteer to help.

Regular-size paper grocery bags are always needed for the bag sale time. You may bring them in any time.



CROP Walk

Mayflower will be the first stop on the CROP Walk. on October 11th. People are needed to help pass out water and apples that day.

If you would like to rock or walk pledge forms are available in the office. Please see Coz to sign up.



Dates to remember in October...

- 10/4 Second Saturday
 Supper 5 pm
- 10/11 CROP Walk
- 10/12 Columbus Day
- 10/15 Deadline for
 Notes Articles
- 10/16 & 17 Murder Mystery
 Event 7 pm
- 10/18 Prudential
 Council - noon
- 10/25 Consecration
 Sunday
- 10/30-31 Rummage Sale

