

### Church Picnic at Marsha and Tom Hacker's

Tom and Marsha have invited the congregation to attend a picnic at their home to kick off Rally Day on Saturday, September 10, starting at 3:00 p.m. Their address is 2415 Houghton Hollow, Lansing 48911.

Pulled pork sandwiches, side dishes, dessert, and non-alcoholic drinks will be provided. You may bring a dish to pass or dessert and your favorite beverage if you wish.

See you at the Hackers' home for fun and fellowship!

### CROP Walk

The annual CROP Walk will be a hybrid event this year. The Walk will be done in-person as it used to be, as well as virtually (participants walking on their own, wherever they would like to walk, any time between October 1 and 9).

If you would like to volunteer to be one of our walkers, please contact Lorraine Finison.

More information will be forthcoming in the weekly emails and in the October newsletter, but please plan now to support this much-needed project to feed the hungry in the Lansing area and in other places around the world. Our help is needed now more than ever.

Checks should be written to CROP Walk or CWS/CROP. Cash is also welcome. Questions? See Lorraine.

### Mayflower Church Staff

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>MINISTER:</b><br>Rev. Mark McCormick<br>206/930-6634 | <b>MUSIC DIRECTOR:</b><br>Barbara Fuller<br>517/574-0576 |
| <b>PIANIST:</b><br>DeeAnn McCormick<br>810/210-0472     | <b>CUSTODIAN:</b><br>Joe Pitchford<br>517/703-3007       |

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# Mayflower Congregational Church



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**Rev. Mark McCormick**  
Pastor

## It's happening in September...

- 9/4 - Communion
- 9/8 - Handbell Choir resumes - 4:15 p.m.  
Vocal Choir resumes - 4:30 p.m.
- 9/10 - Church Picnic at Hackers - 3:00 p.m.
- 9/11 - Rally Day and Ice Cream Social
- 9/14 - Women's Bible Study resumes
- 9/15 - Deadline for October Mayflower Notes
- 9/18 - Trustees - after church
- 9/22 - Yard Work Day - 10:00 a.m.
- 9/25 - Towels for Dogs (see separate article)
- 9/25 - Prudential Council - after church

### Weekly Events:

- Fellowship Hour - Sundays after worship service
- Women's Bible Study - Weds. - 10:30 a.m.
- Exercise Class - Tues. & Weds. - 5:00 p.m.
- Handbell Choir - Thurs. - 4:15 p.m.
- Vocal Choir - Thurs. - 5:30 p.m.

### Back-to-School. . .



It is time for our fall outreach "Back-to-School Supplies" campaign. We are planning to support two or three schools with requested items.

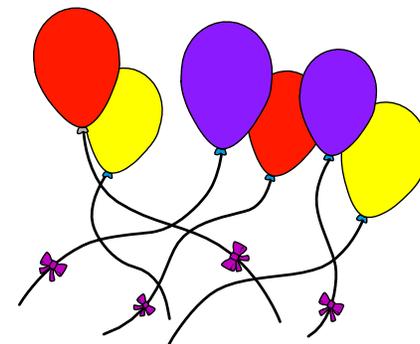
Monetary contributions will be accepted in the office or collection plates until Sunday, September 11.

Questions or comments? Contact Roger Kennedy.

# September

## Birthdays

- 9/12 - Bill McHarris
- 9/20 - Terry Graham



## Anniversaries

- 9/5 - Bob and Sue Mott (35 years)
- 9/21 - Frank and Linda Wheeler (54 years)

## OUTREACH FOCUS

School Supplies



## Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study will reconvene on Wednesday, September 14, at 10:30 a.m. in the Friendship Center. Did you know that there are around 1,700 distinct men and only 137 distinct women mentioned in the Bible? We have to dig to find these women and get to know them. It's a treasure hunt and there are a lot of surprises along the way.

All women are encouraged to join us each Wednesday for an hour of fellowship and fun. Bring a friend as well!

DeeAnn McCormick

## Mayflower Financial News

We thank you for your continuing financial support of your church. We have been very blessed at Mayflower by your caring and sharing.

We now welcome your contributions to our current outreach projects--school supplies for Lewton School and Lansing Charter Academy and the CROP Walk. Read about these projects elsewhere in this newsletter. Thank you in advance!

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

|           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Income:   | \$ 9,605.59     |
| Expenses: | <u>9,289.29</u> |
|           | \$ 316.30       |

### YTD for Seven Months:

|           |                  |
|-----------|------------------|
| Income:   | \$ 76,808.76     |
| Expenses: | <u>77,044.07</u> |
|           | \$ - 235.31      |

### Fund Balances:

|                         |                  |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Checking:               | \$ 99,872.56     |
| Savings:                | 5,824.78         |
| Certificate of Deposit: | <u>22,705.70</u> |
|                         | \$128,403.04     |

Detailed financial reports are in the brochure rack in the lobby or can be emailed to you. Contact us if you have questions or want a copy.

—Linda Wheeler, Treasurer, and  
Lorraine Finison, Financial Secretary



## *Pastor Mark's Musings*

Prepare for change! As I have mentioned many times before, one of the blessings and advantages of living in Michigan is the dramatic change of seasons where we witness the splendor of the creative beauty of God. Perhaps the most beautiful of all is the change of color as we enter the season of autumn. Even though we sometimes mourn the passing of the glorious warm weather of summer, we are greeted with an array of color that rivals most anything in the world. I hope you can find a way to experience autumn in Michigan in some special way.

Seasonal change is a fact of nature and a reality in our lives. Change is also important in the church. Sadly, many churches are experiencing changes which lead to decline and eventually, closure. While we might bemoan these kinds of changes, we know that God still speaks through the church and always will. Thankfully, we at Mayflower can rejoice that in the midst of the general decline of the visible church, we are also experiencing rebirth as many in our sister church have been attending while the Plymouth Church contemplates its future. It is perhaps no coincidence that for much of this year, we have been preparing for change. We are updating all of our financial protocols, we are in the process of making making major changes to our bylaws, we have updated the beauty and comfort of our pews, and we are considering changes to our facility which will provide much-needed indoor access for those who are mobility-challenged.

We can resist change, or we can accept it and embrace it. Change can be hard, but it can also be rewarding. I believe God has given us the resources to affect change that will positively affect the kingdom of God through the auspices of the Mayflower Church well into the future. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Mark



## Attention, Gardening Enthusiasts!

On Thursday, September 22, volunteers are needed to do landscaping and cleanup around the church. Included will be spreading mulch, weeding, trimming bushes, etc.

Please bring any garden tools like pruners, rakes, shovels, hedge trimmers, and, if possible, a wheelbarrow.

We will meet at 10:00 a.m. in the parking lot. In case of rain, we will reschedule to the next Thursday, September 29.

Any questions, please call Roger Kennedy, Jerry Fuller, or Bruce Kushion.



## Mission Meals Project

Mayflower Church has started to provide one meal each month for the Lansing City Rescue Mission, beginning on August 23. This meal will be prepared in the church kitchen every fourth Tuesday of the month. This a tradition that was begun at Plymouth Congregational Church over a decade ago, and has been welcomed by the Mission's family and staff.

The meal is a baked spaghetti/meatball casserole, which has been a favorite of the recipients. The same meal is prepared each month. Volunteers are needed to put the meal together. The only food that needs to be cooked is the spaghetti. The other ingredients (meatballs, sauce and cheese) just need to be added.

Please contact Gail Sawyer or Wendy Kushion if you would like to help or have questions. We are hoping to get enough volunteers so only two people are needed each month.



## Towels for Dogs - Sunday, Sept. 25

Cleaning out your closets, garage, or basement? All those towels you don't use anymore can go to a great cause. On Sunday, September 25, before and after church, towels will be collected to go the Capital Area Humane Society. Bring your towels and toss them in the back of Bruce Kushion's black Ford F-150. The tail gate will be down. They will be delivered to some needy dogs (and cats...).

## Meet Our New Members

For the next several months, I will do a column to introduce our newest members. Pastor Mark is also interviewing newer members during the after-church coffee hour.

This month, let's meet **Bruce and Wendy Kushion**. They were attracted to Mayflower Church because of the positive and welcoming attitude of our members.

Bruce is a retired DeWitt middle school math and science teacher. Wendy was an RN at Sparrow Hospital's diabetes department. They have two sons and four grandchildren.

Bruce enjoys playing golf and gardening. He is a big part of the new plantings in the memorial garden. Wendy enjoys cooking and gardening. They are interested in outreach opportunities.



**Bill and Sue Baldwin** were initially invited to Mayflower by Bill's cousin, our own Tom Hacker. They were sold on Mayflower after their first visit.

Sue is originally from Calumet. Bill is a lifelong Lansing area resident. Sue was an elementary school teacher in Sunfield for 27 years. Bill has a business degree. They enjoy seeing Broadway plays and have been season ticket holders for MSU football games for 43 years.

Bill enjoys golfing and reading. Sue likes to spend time with family and friends. They have twins, a son and a daughter, and two granddaughters whom they watch once a week.

The Baldwins hope to see Mayflower continue to grow and serve the community. They enjoy the warm, friendly people and appreciate Pastor Mark and his meaningful sermons.



**Steve Gmazel** is a lifelong Lansing resident. He was attracted to Mayflower's friendly congregation and Pastor Mark's sermons.

Steve is outgoing and interesting to talk with. During his after church interview with Pastor Mark, he wowed us with his artwork. He is an accomplished painter.

## Greetings from Your Lay Leader



Recently my sister, my daughter and I hosted a yard sale. After setting up the items for sale, I was assigned as cashier. This gave me an opportunity to observe the various people that came to shop at the sale. One person in particular was of interest to me. It was a young girl, who I guessed to be age 9 or 10. She arrived at the sale with her parents and a younger sibling. Their car was in need of some repairs. All the family members were dressed in well-worn clothes. All of this indicated they lived on the margins of daily living.

One of the items for sale was a doll house with a complete set of furniture for the house. This young girl went directly to the house, especially the box that contained the furniture. I observed her picking up some of the pieces of furniture and really inspecting them. I asked her if she had a doll house at home. Her response was, "No." She further said she was looking at the furniture to see if it was something she could paint as she routinely gave small gifts to those less fortunate in her church. I was speechless that this young girl, who appeared to have little herself, was committed to giving something to others as a visible, tangible gift letting them know they are cared for. I looked closer into this girl's eyes and would take a oath that I was looking into the face of Jesus.

Later that evening as I was reflecting on the day, I wondered how many times I have missed seeing caring for others in the eyes of those who cross my path. Or more importantly, how many times have I missed seeing someone else's needs. I was very disappointed in myself, certain that I have missed needs in others that I encounter. Maybe you also have experienced moments like that. Let us all vow to be more aware of others' needs.

Ruth L. Pasch



## Music Notes from Barb Fuller

You may remember in our May newsletter that I gave you a brief background on handbells and stated that more information regarding handbells was to come in my next newsletter article.

Even though handbells look as though they are a relatively easy instrument to learn, there are a number of techniques beyond basic ringing that offer much variety in sound.

**Plucking** is a stopped-sound technique used primarily with the bigger bells. With the bell lying on the foam pads of the table, the ringer hangs onto the bell with one hand and grasps the clapper with the fingers of their other hand, keeping the thumb on top. They then throw the clapper down against the casting of the bell, producing a crisp, percussive sound.

A **Shake** is when the bell is held in a vertical position and the ringer's wrist moves quickly forward and backward, making the clapper hit both the front and back of the inside of the bell.

The **Swing** is performed by ringing the bell with the arm fully extended and then swinging the bell backward in a reverse arc, extending the bell and arm behind, then swinging it back to the front ringing position.

**Thumb Damping** is accomplished by placing a thumb on the outside of the bell casting, producing a stopped sound as the clapper strikes the bell. Large bells need an additional one, two, or three fingers on the casting to achieve a complete and uniform stopped sound.

The **Martellato** technique is achieved by striking the bell directly into the foam table top. The bell is held horizontally to the table, with the hand only two or three inches off the foam. The sound produced from gently striking the foam in this fashion is a muffled ring. The bell can either be held in the foam to damp the sound completely or be brought up after striking the foam which then allows the sound to continue. This variation is called a **Martellato Lift**.

Although this is not an entire list of ringing techniques, these are some of the most widely used techniques. Perhaps the next time you watch bells being rung you will enjoy recognizing and putting a name to the techniques you see.