



## From the Pastor's Desk

### CHRISTMAS 2009



It's hard to believe we are heading into the holiday season so quickly. It seems like school just started!

The Christmas pageant is scheduled for December 6, 2009. We have been working hard and are excited to bring you yet another great play. The kids have been working with Mrs. Lowe to learn some new music which we hope to debut for you in December. We have been assisting in packing lunches for Advent House, and will be taking up other projects throughout the year.

Have a blessed holiday season-  
Liz

I am sure Christmas brings many different thoughts to each of us. Among them are good memories, bad memories, happy memories, sad memories; some memories we hope we won't forget, others we wish we could. Christmas brings busy times, crowded times, party times, family times, school events, family events, church events and community events. Plus the whole expense of Christmas, but we'll not get into that here.

No wonder we are worn out come January 1<sup>st</sup>! There are a lot of "extras" going on during this time of the year – some of it we love and some of it we endure. All in the name of the celebration of the birth of Christ. However, two millenniums ago, the birth of Christ went unnoticed by all but a few.

Luke 2:10-14 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

Even today, in the midst of all the busyness of Christmas, the birth of Christ may go unnoticed. The reason for the season is not presents, food, partying, family get-togethers and special events. Jesus is the reason for the season! It is in honor of His birth – thus God's visual demonstration of His love for us while we (mankind) were yet sinners and enemies of God. We see God's love *wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger*; to live as a man, to die as a sacrificial lamb, to be *for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord*.



## Results from the Pledge Drive 2009...

Our pledges for 2009 increased by three units and approximately \$600. Thank you everyone, we're moving in the right direction!!!

### Advent Decorating

We will be decorating for Advent on Sunday, November 29th after church. Please bring a sack lunch. Cookies will be provided. Many hands make light work! Questions??? Call Roger Kennedy at

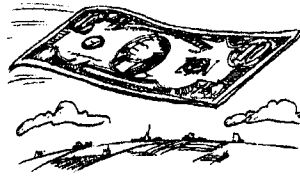
In the midst of all the fun and celebration and traditions of Christmas, as your pastor I encourage you to also make time to reflect upon the reason for our celebration. Take time to read the Christmas story (the real one) in Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 2:1-20. Makes plans to attend Mayflower's Christmas Eve service and other special Christmas events around town, in addition to our Advent Sunday services. It is good to remember God's gift of love *wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger* along with all the fun and traditions of the season. As we hear Santa shouting, "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night" we can also remember that Jesus is the Reason for the Season.

My prayer for you is that you will have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Pastor Rick

**Mayflower Financial News**

The Income and Expenses Summary for October 2009 is listed below. A more detailed report is available in the literature rack at church. The Hobo Dinner netted \$222 which will go towards the Kitchen Update project. Donations for the Adams Family totaled \$ 705.  
Linda Wheeler



**October 2009**

Income	
Contributions	5,209.00
2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday Supper	633.67
Building Use	375.00
Flowers	29.95
Hobo Dinner	222.00
Gift Donations	743.00
Memorials	110.00
Interest Income	.02
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 7,322.64</b>

Expenses

Wages (5 employees)	4,258.32
Employer taxes	171.48
Guest Minister	150.00
Guest Musician	75.00
Registration & Conferences	20.00
Association Dues (MICCC)	100.00
Mileage	83.38
Choir Music	134.19
Maintenance Inside/Outside	264.28
Boiler Repair	678.00
Utilities (gas, electricity & water)	372.34
Supplies (custodial, kitchen, office)	189.03
Church/Office	312.45
Bank Service Charge	152.31
Gift Payment	25.00
Flowers	89.85
Stewardship & Growth	100.00

Total Expenses	\$ 7,175.63
Excess Income/Expenses	\$ 147.01

**Total Funds (savings & checking) \$50,243.74**

Dear Mayflower Family,

As Pastor Rick keeps reminding us, “many great things are being accomplished by our congregation working together.” We are praying for many people and events on our weekly list, many shawls have been created, our Second Saturday Suppers are very successful and Blanche’s Hobo Dinners are great. We have made many improvements in our building. Due to the fact that so much time and talent was donated by so many of us no funds had to be taken from our budget. We raised More than \$700 in a special collection to assist the Adams’ family, filled many shoe boxes for the Christmas Child Project and we will be providing holiday food baskets.

The many advent and Christmas activities are found elsewhere in this newsletter.

Finally, we just completed a very inspirational and successful pledge campaign resulting in an increase in the number of pledges and dollars pledged. The final result will be announced at the Annual Meeting in January.

So, thank you to all of us, the family of Mayflower. We are blessed - Thanks be to God!

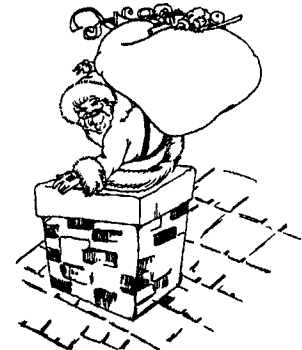


Roger Kennedy  
and the Board of Trustees



**Birthdays**

- 12/5 Bob Mott**
- 12/8 Carleen Brammell**
- 12/12 Barbara Quackenbush (90)**
- 12/28 Lucile Belen (97)**



## *Dates to Remember in December...*



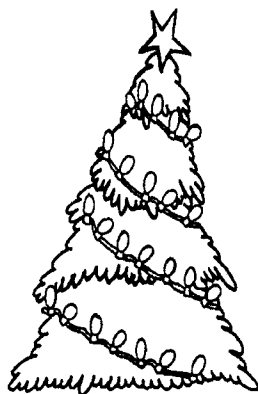
<u>December 6</u>	<i>Children's Christmas Pageant</i>
<u>December 12</u>	<i>Second Saturday Supper</i>
<u>December 20</u>	<i>After church luncheon</i>
<u>December 24</u>	<i>Lessons &amp; Carols Service</i>
<u>December 25</u>	<i>Christmas Day</i>
<u>December 31</u>	<i>New Year's Eve</i>

### Head Usher

*Naida Kenyon*

### Outreach Focus

*Mitten Tree*



## Holiday Happenings



Every Sunday is Special at Mayflower. We strive to have excellent pieces each and every week of the year. From choir selections to soloists, and instrumentalists to solo handbell music, every week is intended to honor and glorify the Sabbath day. Special guests are welcome, and our own talents are greatly appreciated. Hymns are chosen with the theme of the day or the time of year in mind. What a joy it is to praise God in music and song!

On Christmas Eve the Chancel Choir will be singing "And the Glory of the Lord" by Handel and "Hodie" by John Leavitt. The Handbells will play "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" and "We Three Kings"—the latter a fun arrangement; if you listen closely you can hear the camels coming across the desert!

Also, Blanche and I are planning a Christmas luncheon after church on December 20. We hope to have a festive time of fellowship and a Christmas sing-along.

Please join us for worship in December—it is always special to be together in His Spirit.

Chrisann Lowe

Even though this article is for the December issue of the Notes, I am writing this as Thanksgiving approaches...

Two years ago, Noreen, Rob and I were in Plymouth, Massachusetts where the original Thanksgiving took place. We visited Plimouth Plantation/Village where we heard a great deal about the original settlement and the Thanksgiving feast between the Wampanoag Tribe and the Pilgrim settlers. This feast was to celebrate both the good harvest and the peaceful summer after the very bad winter experienced by both the Wampanoag and the Pilgrims. Without the Wampanoag's help, even more of the Pilgrims would have died.

Our Thanksgiving traditions have changed greatly through the years. We still have much to give thanks for, even though in these difficult economic times it seems that all we hear about is bad news. I know that even for Noreen, Rob and I the economic times are tough right now. Noreen has had problems with her ankle and knee, but overall we have very much to be thankful for. We have a good life, good friends and a loving family.

I think too often today, Thanksgiving has turned into a day of just feasting and football. I don't think it is that way for the people at Mayflower, but for the millions of unchurched we need to pray they will find something to be thankful for besides feasting and football.

P.S. Have a Merry Christmas!

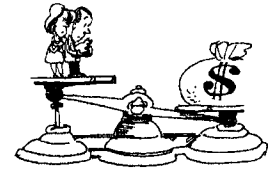


Dave



A sign-up sheet is posted on the Mission Board in Fellowship Hall for 2 Christmas Baskets. Please sign up for the item(s) you would like to donate. This year our families for baskets are from the mobile home park down the street. We will be serving these families for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. Bring your items in no later than Sunday, December 20th. Baskets will be delivered on Monday, the 21st.

## Stewardship Minute Message By Ron Chewning, Stewardship Advisors



### Grow in the Grace of Giving

In the first verse of the hymn "We Give You But Your Own," we sing, "We give You but Your own In any gifts we bring; All that we have is Yours alone, A trust from You, our King."

It is likely that we have sung this hymn many times without realizing the implication of the words. Through faith, we recognize that all we are and all we have come as gifts from our gracious Heavenly Father. We recognize that God owns everything and that we have nothing, except as stewards of God. We give to show our gratitude to God for His gifts to us. Our love and gratitude compel us to grow in our giving.

As we grow in the grace of giving, we can find four different levels of giving:

1. At the first level of giving, people give only a token amount, if anything at all. The amount given represents the excess or left-over amounts after everything else is taken care of. Often times, people at this level give to imitate others because they see other people giving. This giving is normally not associated with faith.
2. The next level of giving could be referred to as self-interest giving. People see the church as important so they give to keep the doors open. The attitude toward giving could be compared to paying dues. Giving fulfills a sense of obligation. The self-interest giver sees little connection between faith in God and what he does with his money. Giving is from the left-overs rather than from the top.
3. The next level of giving could be referred to as a level of spiritual gratitude. At this stage, a person recognizes how God has freely given him/her salvation through His Son Jesus Who went to the Cross for his sins. Out of thanksgiving for what Jesus has done, there is a response of gratitude. Jesus has paid the penalty of sin so that we can be made right with God. When someone understands what Jesus did on the cross, there is joy in giving. Giving at this level stops focusing on the church budget and becomes a personal surrender of one's life and resources. People at this level give regular and proportionate amounts of their incomes.
4. The fourth level of giving is at such a high level of stewardship that fewer people reach. At this level, a person gives beyond their ability to give. The final level is the level of sacrificial giving.

May God grant us loving and giving hearts so we can worship and praise our Heavenly Father as we grow in the grace of giving.