

Mayflower Notes...



Mayflower Congregational Church

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Dr. Rick Martin

Pastor

*Events to remember in
February...*



February 3

Communion

February 9

*Second Saturday
Supper*

February 10

Pancake Luncheon

February 13

Ash Wednesday

February 14

Valentine's Day

February 15

Newsletter Deadline

February 17

Prudential Council

February 18

President's Day



Head Usher

Naida Kenyon

Outreach Focus

Lansing Churches' Food Drop

From the Pastor's Desk

Resolutions

I am glad to say I have not broken one of my New Year resolutions yet this year. I didn't make any. I have learned from my past that I am not resolute about my New Year resolutions. I'm more of a creature of habit, therefore I tend to see what I don't like, make a resolution to change, pretend for a day or two and by Jan 3rd I'm back to my old habits. How about you?

I am glad my relationship with God is not dependent upon my resolution to be a better person. God does not love us and desires a relationship with us because we are good, or cute, or striving to be better. God loves us – period. It is written on the mirror in my bathroom that Mike Huckabee said, “No matter how good we are, God could love us no more. And no matter how bad we are, He could love us no less. His love is prompted by nothing we do.”

God loves us and sent His Son, Jesus, to live and suffer and die and rise again that we might have salvation through faith in Him. He loves us unconditionally (unlike human love which always has conditions). And in His love towards us has shown us how to be a better person. Jesus said in John 14:15, “**If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.**” Not meaning if we love Him we'll prove it by keeping His commandments, but more like “if you will focus on loving Me, you will {automatically} keep My commandments”.

Good or bad, God loves you. I pray you will accept His love in 2013 and live in the benefits.



HIGH QUALITY

There's a term in weightlifting denoted "Best Lifter Award". The person who receives the award at each competition has lifted the most weight overhead per pound of their own bodyweight. It denotes quality of performance, numerous physical abilities, composure under stress, and a number of other attributes. I thought a lot about this award when I pondered the last twelve months at Mayflower. We are a small congregation, yet the output of Christian works is not small; it is very large. Our church looks better and is more comfortable than it has ever been due to numerous improvements. Our plans for 2013 are bursting at the seams. The serious commitment of our members is reflected in the pledge figures for this coming year; despite having only 62% of the giving units that were here just a few years ago, the pledge totals remain about the same. This is what reminded me of the "Best Lifter Award". Pound-for-pound (in this case, pocketbook-for-pocket), our congregation reflects quality of commitment and seriousness of purpose. There's no trophy or plaque to hand out to reward this; our reward for following the ways of Jesus Christ is Heaven. Now, THAT will be the very TOP of the podium for us!



Fred Lowe

Thrift Sale

Another thrift sale to benefit the church treasury is coming in late April (likely April 19 and 20). Please start your spring cleaning early and check around your house to find good, saleable things that you have around the house but don't really need any more. Remember, too, to invite friends, family, coworkers, etc., to donate items. We'll be glad to have them!

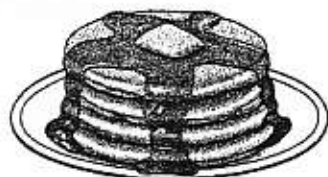
Plan to hold your stuff and bring it in any time after the Second Saturday Supper on April 13. We also need a lot of help to set up, run the sale, and clean up after the sale, so please mark your calendars now for that week. Set up dates and times will be announced. See Lorraine or Ann to volunteer to help.

Sunday is the New "Fat Tuesday"!

This year our annual "Fat Tuesday" pancake dinner will be served as an after church luncheon on February 10th (This is mainly due to waning public interest in the dinner).

The meal will have a Mardi Gras theme once again. The menu will include sausage, pancakes and apple sauce and whole wheat pancakes. The luncheon "cost" will be a free will donation. This is a chance to once again break out your bright shirts and beads!!!

Come and bring friends!



From Blanche...

Hymns for All Occupations

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Golfer's Hymn | There Is A Green Hill Far Away |
| Dentist's Hymn | Crown Him With Many Crowns |
| Obstetrician's Hymn | Come, Labor On |
| Aerobic Instructor's Hymn | Awake My Soul, Stretch Every Nerve |
| Swiss Cheese Maker's Hymn | Holy, Holy, Holy |
| Gossip's Hymn | I Love To Tell The Story |
| Contractor's Hymn | We Would Be Building |
| Edison Company Hymn | Let There Be Light |
| Traveler's Hymn | I Wonder As I Wander |

Mayflower Financial News

Financially, we ended 2012 on the positive side of the balance sheet. Thanks to lower heating costs due to a mild winter, lower inside and outside maintenance costs and several fund-raising events such as the Thrift Sales, Ragtime Fest, Corned Beef Dinner, Iron Egg Weight-Lifting and the 2nd Saturday Suppers, we had \$6,347.27 more in income than expenses.

A brief summary for the month of:

December

| | |
|----------|------------------|
| Income | \$ 10,101.69 |
| Expenses | <u>10,257.72</u> |
| | - \$ 156.03 |

| | |
|------------|------------------|
| YTD Income | \$ 94,354.14 |
| Expenses | <u>88,006.87</u> |
| | \$ 6,347.27 |

Fund Balances:

| | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| Checking: | \$ 17,469.89 |
| Bequest Funds Savings | 4,007.42 |
| Memorial Fund CD | 5,488.60 |
| 12 Month CD | <u>22,291.96</u> |
| | \$ 49,257.87 |

A more detailed report is available in the church's brochure rack



We're starting our new year off wonderfully! It was wonderful to have Kathryn Fuller with us recently – she has grown enormously in the past few years. She and the twins picked up as if they hadn't been apart.

Morgan, Maggie and I picked up right where we left off with our Confirmation studies. We are discussing Jesus as a man, and the idea of the Trinity, and how it impacts our lives. The girls are looking forward to more discussions and less lecturing, I think!

I had a really good lesson with all the kids on the parable of the mustard seed. We talked about the meaning of faith, and how asking God isn't the same as getting from God, and all the reasons why God sometimes can't give us what we ask for in prayer. It was a lively talk and I look forward to having many more chances with them!

If anyone is interested in guest teaching a lesson, or doing a Children's Moment, please see me. I know Ann, Linda, and I are all appreciative of another point of view sometimes. The kids especially love crafts, so if you're good at small projects that can be done in under an hour, or music you'd like to share, let me know!

Liz Canfield



Email change

As I predicted in the last newsletter, my email has changed. It is now; makennedy@wowway.com.

Please contact me at this address in the future. Thank you!

Meredith



Music Musings

Fred and I were just watching a program on the Weather Channel (really!) about the heat wave of 1995. There were over 700 people killed in Chicago, mostly poor and elderly. After the crisis, they worked on an action plan, a plan for city workers and neighbors to check on those who might be in need. The plan was needed just one month later, and the loss of life was more like 100. They demonstrated the lack of green plants in some areas, no air conditioning, and they explained how the air becomes so unbearable with each higher level.

It is so sad that those in need did not reach out, or know how to reach out. We are doing so much better with cooling spaces in the summer.

Now we are coming into some very cold weather; we have all extremes in Michigan. One project that is of direct help is our mitten tree. Try going without hat or gloves in the severe cold.

We can try to help; we are an excellent group for helping.

God bless our ministry.

Chrisann

Thanks to our ringers and singers for a very lovely December of music.



Thanks from the Finisons

Kim and Lorraine want to thank everyone for their many kindnesses and expressions of sympathy on the death of his mother, Velma, on January 3. The family appreciated especially the luncheon and the opportunity to spend time together. Thank you all!

February

Birthdays

2/1 Nancy McKay

2/9 Lisa Jones

2/16 Mark Holmes

2/21 Dick McKay

Anniversaries

2/18 Janet Hershey and Bob Felter



Favorite Sayings

The longest leap in the world is the jump to conclusions.

Don't ever burn your bridges... you might have to cross them again.

Betting on a sure thing is one way of finding out how uncertain life can be.

February 2013

SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY

| JANUARY | | | | | | |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | | |

| MARCH | | | | | | |
|-------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S | M | T | W | T | F | S |
| | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 |
| 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 | | | | | |

| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|--|------------------------------------|--|
| 3 Communion Handbells 8:30 am | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm | 8 Black History Month Begins | 9 Dia de la Candelaria (Mex) Groundhog Day |
| 10 Chinese New Year Handbells 8:30 am Parcake Luncheon | 11 | 12 Lincoln's Birthday | 13 Ash Wednesday | 14 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm Valentine's Day | 15 Deadline for Mayflower Notes | 16 Second Saturday Supper 5 pm |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 Handbells 8:30 am Prudential Council 12 pm Purim | 25 Presidents' Day | 26 | 27 | 28 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm | 29 Washington's Birthday | |