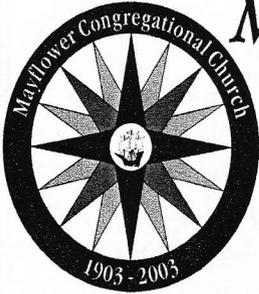


# Mayflower Notes...



## *Mayflower Congregational Church*

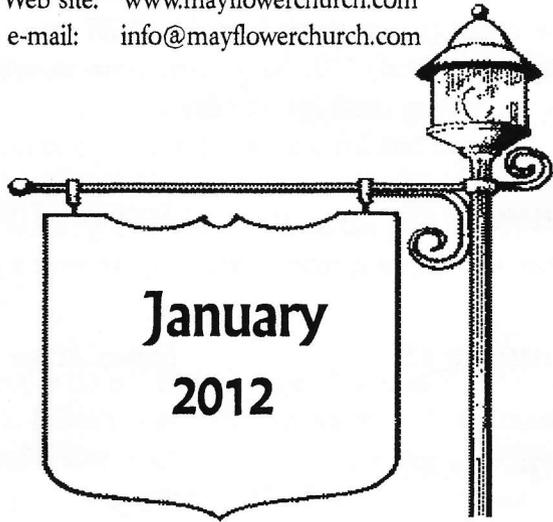
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**Dr. Rick Martin**

**Pastor**

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*Dates to remember in  
January*



January 1

*New Year's Day*

January 7

*Barbara Quackenbush  
Memorial Service 11a.m.*

January 8

*Communion*

January 14

*Second Saturday Supper*

January 15

*Newsletter items due*

January 16

*Martin Luther King, Jr.  
Day*

January 22

*Annual Meeting*

January 29

*Advent House Lunches*



## *From the Pastor's Desk*

A new year is upon us. This does make many people wonder what the new year is going to bring. 2011 didn't go exactly as I expected; I didn't expect Audra Tyler Hutchins, our granddaughter, at this time last year. Of course, the Mayan calendar ends this year, 2012, thus sparking much conjecture – and even a movie – about the end of the world. [Let me assure you, according to the Bible, Planet Earth will be here at least 1007 more years]. So what does happen in 2012?

God is going to do some NEW things. I don't exactly know what those are, could be like the air conditioning of 2011 (bought & paid for) or new families joining the church or wonderful spiritual growth for you personally. Whatever God does, it will be wonderful and awesome.

Isaiah 43:18, 19

18 Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past.

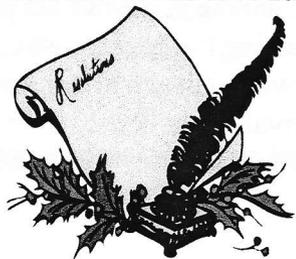
19 See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it?

God knows that people do not like change, thus many things will remain the same in 2012. I don't know what these are either. Traditions allow us to feel comfortable and at peace with our surrounding. Worship traditions allow us to quickly touch the Spirit of God in a service. Coffee hour reassures us we can catch up with our church family. Office hours provide an easy avenue to conduct church business. And so forth...

I Thessalonians 2:15

***So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught.***

I don't know what 2012 holds for Mayflower Church, or for you personally, or for the Martin household. I do know that as we take on 2012 working together, with our faith in God and our hearts full of His love for one another – it is going to be a good year!



## LAY LEADER'S MISSIVE

This is my final newsletter message to the Mayflower Family as Fred Lowe will be your new Lay Leader after the Annual meeting. It has been an exciting and busy year, hopefully filled with many good things for each of us. PLEASE plan to attend the annual meeting on Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> to participate in the many functions of the Prudential Council.

I have found another story to copy in the hope that it will inspire you as it did me.

### THE CAB RIDE

"I arrived at the address and honked the horn. After waiting a few minutes I walked to the door and knocked....'Just a minute' answered a frail, elderly voice. After a long pause, the door was opened by a small woman in her 90's. She was dressed like somebody out of a 1940's movie. By her side was a small suitcase. The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years...there were no clocks on the walls, no knickknacks or utensils on the counters. In the corner was a box filled with photos and glassware I took the suitcase to the cab and returned to assist the woman. She took my arm and we walked slowly to the curb. When we got in the cab, she gave me an address and then asked, 'could you drive through downtown?' 'It's not the shortest way,' I answered quickly....'Oh, I don't mind,' she said. 'I'm in no hurry, I'm on my way to a hospice. I looked in the rear-view mirror. Her eyes were glistening. 'I don't have any family left,' she continued in a soft voice....The doctor says I don't have very long.' I quietly reached over and shut off the meter. 'What route would you like me to take?' I asked. For the next two hours, we drove through the city. She showed me where she had once worked as an elevator operator. We drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds and stopped by a furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl. Sometimes she'd ask me to slow in front of a building or corner and would sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing. As the first hint of sun was creasing the creasing the horizon, she suddenly said, 'I'm tired. Let's go now.' We drove in silence to her destination. It was a low building, like a small convalescent home. Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. They were solicitous and intent, watching her every move. As I

opened the trunk, the woman was already seated in a wheelchair. ‘How much do I owe you?’ she asked, reaching into her purse. ‘Nothing,’ I said. ‘You have to make a living,’ she answered. “There are other passengers,’ I responded. Almost without thinking, I bent and gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly. ‘You gave an old woman a little moment of joy,’ she said. ‘Thank you.’ I squeezed her hand, and then walked into the dim morning light. Behind me, a door shut. It was the sound of the closing of a life... I didn’t pick up any more passengers that shift. I drove aimlessly lost in thought. For the rest of that day, I could hardly talk. What if that woman had gotten an angry driver, or one who was impatient to end his shift? What if I had refused to take the run, or had honked once, then driven away? On a quick review, I don’t think that I have done anything more important in my life. We’re conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments. But great moments often catch us unaware – beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one. It’s the little things that mean the most. People may not remember exactly what you did, or what you said – but – they will always remember how you made them feel.”

It is good to be reminded that often it is the random acts of kindness that most benefit all of us. Thank you my friends

As Ever, Rog

**Welcome to 2012!**



We’ve had a great first half of the year in Sunday School. Our pageant was very successful, and the kids had a good time putting it on.

2012 brings us to a renewed concentration on lessons and Confirmation classes. We will continue making lunches on the fifth Sunday for Advent House.

Have a blessed new year.

Liz Canfield

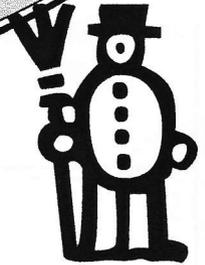


## **Annual Meeting**

In accordance with the bylaws of Mayflower Congregational Church I am announcing the Annual Meeting which will take place on Sunday, January 22nd immediately after the church service.

We will be having a community chili dinner after church. You may be asked to bring chili or something to go with it for the meal.

Roger Kennedy



## **Amazing Grace**

At Carnegie Hall, gospel singer Wintley Phipps delivers perhaps the most powerful rendition of Amazing Grace ever recorded.

He says, "A lot of people don't realize that just about all Negro spirituals are written on the black notes of the piano.

Probably the most famous on this slave scale was written by John Newton, who used to be the captain of a slave ship, and many believe he heard this melody that sounds very much like a West African sorrow chant.

And it has a haunting, haunting plaintive quality to it that reaches past your arrogance, past your pride, and it speaks to that part of you that's in bondage.

And we feel it. We feel it. It's just one of the most amazing melodies in all of human history."

## Musical Miracles 01/2012

The holiday season is past, and it was wonderful to hear the lovely sounds that come from the talent of Mayflower. They worked many extra weeks to accomplish the difficult pieces. The sound of live choral singing is special; it resonates with the soul. Surely God is with us to produce such a result.

It has been a blessing to have several new ringers join our Handbell ensemble; we are working diligently to gain new and better skills. Handbell playing takes both music and coordination skills to make a musical result, and we are doing that very well.

The commitment from the two groups is outstanding. They are truly dedicated to making our worship services meaningful and to honoring God with excellence.

We welcome your participation. This is a good time to come in to a group. I am happy to speak with you; there is no audition required.

Chrisann

Isaiah 40:31 But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary; they will walk and not be faint.



A minister told his congregation, “Next week I plan to preach about the sin of lying. To help you understand my sermon, I want you all to read Mark 17.”

The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17. Several hands went up.

The minister smiled and said, “Mark has only sixteen chapters. I will now proceed with my sermon on the sin of lying.”



## VISITING PASTOR

The new pastor was visiting in the homes of his parishioners. At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door. He took out a card, wrote ‘Revelation 3 verse 20’ on the back and stuck it in the door.

When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, ‘Genesis 3 verse 10.’

Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter. Revelation 3 verse 20 begins ‘Behold, I stand at the door and knock.’

Genesis 3 verse 10 reads, ‘I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid for I was naked.’



# January 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 New Year's Day	2	3	4	5 Handbells 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	6	7 Barbara Quackenbush's Memorial Service 11 a.m.
8 Communion	9	10	11	12 Handbells 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm Trustees 5 pm	13	14 Second Saturday Supper 5 pm
15 February newsletter deadline	16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day	17 Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm	18	19 Handbells 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	20	21
22 Annual Meeting	23	24 Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm	25	26 Handbells 6:00 pm Choir 7:30 pm	27	28
29 Advent House Lunches	30	31 Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm				