

Mayflower Notes...

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Dr. Rick Martin

Pastor

Mayflower NOTES – Jun/Jul 2010

From the Pastor's Desk

Lessons for Today from the Book of Ruth

As you are reading this, Barb and I will be in Branson, Missouri enjoying a much needed vacation. We will miss everyone at Mayflower Church, but we know that everything is in good hands and that Jesus will continue His work at Mayflower Congregational Church while we are gone. After all, it is His work in and through us – and He never takes a vacation.

I thoroughly enjoyed preaching the series from Ruth. Here are what I found to be some of the highlights. As you reread Ruth, you'll find some highlights I missed.

1) Ruth's Faithfulness to God & Naomi ... for where you go, I will go; and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. (Ruth 1:16,17).

a. From a pastor's perspective: thank God for people who are committed to God through Mayflower Congregational Church! All that we do as a church could not be done without the faithful commitment of people serving God through our church.

2) Ruth's Actions backed up her Words. For months following Naomi and Ruth's return to Bethlehem, Ruth gleaned the fields of Boaz; going out daily to pick up the left-overs after the harvesters were done with the field of grain. Ruth verbalized her commitment to Naomi and then faithfully followed it up with her unwavering actions.

3) Ruth's Faithfulness sparks renewed hope in Naomi, who has been depressed since the passing of her husband and children. God uses our actions and faithfulness to inspire others.

4) God rewards Faithfulness. Because Ruth was faithful to God and Naomi, God rewarded her with a Kinsman Redeemer, Boaz. He redeemed them from poverty and married Ruth. A future blessing was that King David came from this bloodline.

a. Jesus, our Kinsman Redeemer, purchased us back from sin & death. As Ruth could not (and had no right to) redeem herself or Naomi from

poverty, we were “dead in our sins” and couldn’t do anything about it. So Jesus came, lived, died, & was risen so that we might have eternal life through faith in Him.

There’s more – but I’m out of space. You’ll have to get the rest on your own. The Book of Ruth is a good read. Also the sermons are available online at www.mayflowerchurch.com. May we be faithful to God and one another as Ruth was to God and Naomi. Thank God that He didn’t leave us without a Kinsman Redeemer, Jesus, through whom we can have eternal life by believing in Him.

Have a wonderful summer in Jesus!
Pastor Rick



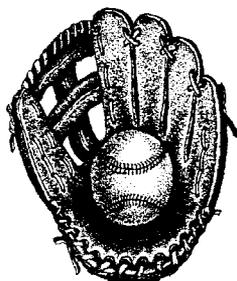
Fund Raising

The Prudential Council ad-hoc committee exploring fund-raisers for the yearly budget has suggested a game night. It will be held Friday, August 6th. There will be a southwestern theme and a \$5 entry fee. Save the date and invite all your friends. Foursomes for bridge, euchre or other games would be fun. Let’s really get behind this effort!!! More details to follow.



Lugnuts Baseball Game

Don’t forget to sign up for the Lugnuts Baseball outing on July 23rd. Tickets have to be ordered no later than June 14. Questions??? Call Roger Kennedy at 646-8861. Checks or other payment for the tickets goes to the church office when ordering.



Music Meanderings



We have been blessed to visit Sedona, Arizona and the surrounding area. The beauty of the region is wondrous, beyond words. This is called the red rock region, the high dessert. Some western-style movies have been made here. We had our hiking shoes and poles and hiked Doe Mountain, just west of Sedona. There were amazing views at every step. I saw a few cactus and other lovely flowers in bloom. Then to the north, we hiked in the Oak Creek Valley. This region was made famous in “Call of the Canyon” by author Zane Gray. We had to ford the stream (not deep) eight times each way. The cliffs rise up, up, up around you. Just amazing. God paints a splendid picture in Sedona.

Thank you so much for the graduation reception. The cake and flower were so pretty. I received a beautiful portfolio in the mail later that week, as well as a snazzy mug. Thank you church! You may pray for my continued experience in accounting work.

I understand that the Alumni Choir was fabulous on May 9. Good to hear! Thanks to Warren and Barb and to all singers for making that day of worship a joyous and special event.

Heartfelt thanks for the year of excellent praise to the Glory of God through our music this past season. We have been pleased to enjoy Praise Ringers, Glory Ringers and liturgical drama, and exceptional vocal worship through our Mayflower Choir. It is not about the rhythm and the tune and the pitch alone; it is about our best effort in the rhythm and the tune and the pitch as it is intended to honor God. We sing to God. We offer our best— humbly, with wholly good intent. Praise Be!

As we enter into June, it is time to look back yet again at another year gone by. It has moved really quickly, as usual.

Our Sunday School program has benefitted from having three teachers available. Mrs. Mac and Mrs. Wheeler bring different perspectives on our lessons, as well as serious craft skills that I do not possess! We had a lot of fun making snakes, whales, and other Biblical creatures, and learning new words to old tunes that helped reinforce the Bible lesson. I had no idea that “London Bridge is Falling Down” could tell everything from fratricide (Cain and Abel) to battle craft (The Walls of Jericho) to disarming (Samson and Delilah). And the tune did it all so CHEERFULLY, too!

We were able to sing for you a few times this year, too. In fact, we had a hot streak where we sang three out of five weeks. Pretty good for a part-time choir! My thanks go to Mrs. Lowe for her help in doing this every week.

This summer, we’re planning to have “Funday School” instead of Sunday School. We’ll still learn some things, but they’ll be more about the world around us rather than focus specifically on the Bible. We are in talks to have a “Wii Until the Wee Hours” event, and I would like to have another sleep-over, as we had a lot of fun last year.

Liz Canfield



HOW DO YOU DECIDE WHO TO MARRY? (written by kids)

You got to find somebody who likes the same stuff... Like, if you like sports, she should like it that you like sports, and she should keep the chips and dip coming.

— Alan, age 10

No person really decides before they grow up who they’re going to marry. God decides it all way before, and you get to find out later who you’re stuck with....

— Kristen, age 10

Stewardship Devotion – by Ron Chewing

Scripture Reading: *“No man should appear before the Lord empty-handed: Each of you must bring a gift in proportion to the way the Lord your God has blessed you”* (Deuteronomy 16:16-17).

Giving Proportionately

God directs us to give in proportion to our blessings. *“On the first day of every week, each one of you should set aside a sum in keeping with his income . . .”* (1 Corinthians 16:2). Through faith, we willingly surrender our proportionate gifts from our income to the Lord. In both the Old and New Testaments, the standard proportion of a person’s income to give was the tithe or ten percent. By grace, Scripture gives us examples of believers who even gave beyond the tithe. Zacchaeus gave 50 percent (Luke 19:1-10) and the poor widow 100 percent (Luke 21:1-4). The Macedonians, who were poor and distressed, gave sacrificially beyond their ability to give. After they gave themselves to the Lord, they gave their resources joyfully and freely to help the poor (2 Corinthians 8:1-5).

Whether God gives us little or much, we are to give from the blessings that God provides. Our blessings come from the Lord, so His gifts to us will determine what we have available to give. If, in God’s sovereignty, He chooses to give us little, we will be able to give only a little. However, if He gives us much, we have the responsibility to give much. *“From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked”* (Luke 12:48). When we faithfully give in proportion to the blessings that we receive, a gift of \$1,000 from \$10,000 of income is just as God-pleasing to God as a \$10,000 gift from \$100,000 of income.

The proportion that we give is determined more by our faith than our financial condition. As our faith grows, we are empowered to increase the proportion that we give. *“For Christ’s love compels us”* (2 Corinthians 5:14) to give generously. Through faith, we grow in our giving to the Lord through our churches. Rather than giving our leftovers, our giving becomes a priority. The two or three percent that we gave in past years is no longer satisfactory because we know that God deserves our first and best. As we grow in our proportionate giving, we see God’s grace at work in us as He gives us even more to give (2 Corinthians 9:8).



Discussion thoughts:

1. Read 1 Kings 17:2-24. What portion was the Widow of Zarephath asked to give?
2. Read 2 Corinthians 8:1-5. Why did the Macedonians give so generously?
3. Why is proportionate giving fair to the rich and to the poor? Is there an amount of income that giving only a tithe would be selfish?

Prayer: Dear Lord, You are so generous with us. Grant us faithful and giving hearts so we can be generous with You. Help us to hold onto our things loosely. Empower us, Lord, to use our time, talents, and treasures in Your service. In Your precious name we pray. Amen.

Outdoor Beautification

The garden Gnomes have been at work. Look around (all sides) of church and see the wonders they have wrought! The memorial plaques are shining in the sunshine! The flowers are enjoying the sun!

As a result of Gnomes' work, people are not only enjoying the fruits of their labor, but are worried that something could happen to the beauty...

We, the Gnomes, still have work to do...

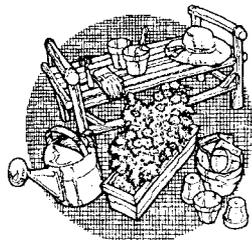
We need some things to aid us in this task.

1. three people to be the leaders/guides of our outdoor beauty both Spring and Fall - I am willing to be one) and placing new memorial plaques in the gardens
2. use of a chainsaw for a day and an operator
3. People to help the Gnomes put the finishing touches on spring efforts (yes, we are at the final stages)
4. Annual plants for 3 large planters (petunias, begonias, etc.) We can plant them, if need be.
5. Mulch (4 bags, available at Menards). If you would like to donate \$\$, we can get it @ 2 bags for \$3.
6. Some people to help us finish the weeding on the West Side.
7. Someone to take care of the area around the Mayflower sign on the South side.
8. Someone to take care of the flower box around the sign on the North side.

The beautification process seems like it will never end. However, once we finish (hopefully, next weekend) it won't need work again until it is time to tidy up in the Fall.

It is wonderful to see the Beauty of God's World all around us!

The Beautification Gnomes



From the Lay Leader

As I think over the month past and the two months to come (since the newsletter combines June and July for its summer edition), these are the things that pop up:

We had many nice donations for our military care packages, and boxes have been sent to the three military people remaining on our prayer list.

Lots of cleaning-up was done during our spring yard cleanup, but you know how it is with weeds and other growing things. They will grow all summer. If you happen to be at Mayflower with a few idle moments on your hands, it would be very, very nice if you would step outside and pull a weed or two. It's therapeutic, too – anything that causes you stress, you can picture on the leaf of every maple seedling you tear up and throw away!

Our first ever dinner/variety show was a ball. The musicians and Sunday School whipped up a wonderful lasagna dinner and a genuinely varied variety show in an amazingly short time.

The State Health Department, which checks out kitchens every year to make sure we serve sanitary Second Saturday Suppers, has once again given us a clean bill of health.

Again this year, Lewton School will hold their graduation ceremony at Mayflower. It will take place June 3, and they may hold their luncheon here afterward.

Pastor Rick and Barb are taking a well-deserved vacation and will miss church services at Mayflower on May 30 and June 6. Fred Lowe and Dave Boes have graciously agreed to take over one each of the two Sundays.

So now June is coming – One of the poems I had to learn in school started out “What is so rare as a day in June? Then, if ever, come perfect days” Enjoy them!

