

# Mayflower Notes...



## *Mayflower Congregational Church*

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**Dr. Rick Martin**

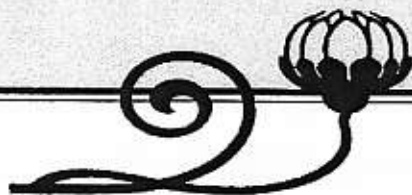
Pastor

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*Events to remember in  
May...*

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|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| <u>May 5</u>  | <i>Communion</i>                    |
| <u>May 9</u>  | <i>Ascension Sunday</i>             |
| <u>May 11</u> | <i>Second Saturday<br/>Supper</i>   |
| <u>May 4</u>  | <i>Landscape Day</i>                |
| <u>May 12</u> | <i>Mother's Day</i>                 |
| <u>May 12</u> | <i>Music Recognition<br/>Sunday</i> |
| <u>May 12</u> | <i>Trustees Meeting</i>             |
| <u>May 15</u> | <i>Notes Deadline<br/>June/July</i> |
| <u>May 19</u> | <i>Prudential Council</i>           |
| <u>May 27</u> | <i>Memorial Day</i>                 |



## *From The Pastor's Desk*

Do you ever think what Heaven is going to be like? Who are we going to know? What are relationships going to be like? Are we going to get bored? What are we going to do? The Bible doesn't actually talk a lot about Heaven, just glimpses and pieces.

Revelation 21:3,4

“Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”

Life on earth is so short. Eternity is ... well, forever and ever. Sometimes I wish I had a better understanding of what my life is going to be like in Heaven. Maybe that would help me to stay a little more focused on the “important” things in this earthly walk. Too often the distractions of life – money, personal enjoyment, toys, accomplishments, creature comforts – take my focus away from God's purpose; being the person God created me to be and accomplishing the work He has called me to do. I don't like the suffering of doing His will verses getting my way. Somehow my brain thinks it is my right as an American Christian to have life easy as well as more new stuff than I can possibly use. If my focus were on Heaven, all these sufferings would be merely light inconveniences.

Romans 8:18

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

Heaven is going to be beyond wonderful. I do believe, whatever else is involved in Heaven, that we will always be doing God's perfect will and **thrilled** every moment to be doing it. I am attempting to practice that a bit more while I am on earth.



With Spring Coming and so many challenges facing each of us, I think of the word “Volunteering”.

Summarizing James 2:14-24 as follows: What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, be warmed and filled,” without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead. But someone will say, “You have faith and I have works. Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.”

The above scripture speaks to the meaning of the word “Volunteering”. In our fast paced world, we sometimes forget that faith is action and giving to our church and our community. Let’s remember that God is action and if we are to resemble God then we must find our place with “Giving”. Volunteering is transforming our faith into action. Have you tested your faith lately? Do we include action with our growing faith? We must extend that faith to grow and give back to god. Remember God blesses the givers so they can do his works. Praise be to God.



Terry Graham  
Lay Leader

**Our Sunday School** year is drawing to a close. It’s hard to believe how many of these years I have taught!

As I look at our young people grow, I am so excited to see God’s plan for their lives unfolding. Morgan is well on her way to adulthood, and Dominic is just beginning the steps down that path. Maggie hovers at the in-between stage, as she prepares to begin high school in the fall. Trace and Tieler have gone from only being able to color in my class, to reading and acolyte duties and growing with God. Our occasional class mates, like Marissa, Zoe, and Hailey, also change more quickly than I would like.

I hope to wrap up Confirmation studies this month. Where God will take our studies next year is yet to be determined. The path, while sometimes hidden, always reveals itself, and I am confident that He is not yet done with me at Mayflower. I look forward to another year with the younger people.

Liz

## Big Bang, Little Bang: God Is Here

For about the last year, I have been enjoying “The Big Bang Theory,” a sitcom on TV. Of course, it is silly and secular, but as Christians we should always be filtering what we are looking at. Sheldon’s mother is a Texas Bible-thumper, and he has no use for that. But you may notice that she tempers his stubborn behavior, and that she has raised him with prayer and love. Leonard’s mother is a pure scientist, and he did not know the loving comfort of a mother when he was raised, and he is still insecure.

I know enough as an adult, I believe, to edit what they are talking about. Scientists cannot really go along with the seven-days explanation of the formation of earth, but how do we measure time? Surely God defines His measure of time, not man.

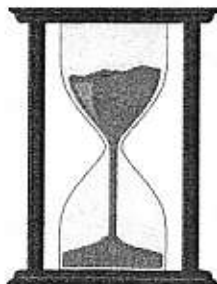
The boy-men support each other, and they are even acting better as time goes on. They seem to know something about love.

Faith itself is a mystery. We are not so compelled to “have” to go to church to be morally and socially acceptable. But Lord, I believe, help thou mine unbelief. If we can make our spaces of worship kind and accepting, and open to the Holy Spirit, God promises to be with us.

Perhaps we can eventually bridge this science-spirit conundrum as well.

*Chrisann*

Please note that music Sunday is May 12 this year. We have some wonderful, alive music to share, and we want to share it with you!



## Thrift Sale

Thanks to all who donated items for the thrift sale and/or worked in setting up, selling, and cleaning up! Proceeds (about \$1100 so far) will go toward the church's general fund at this point.

We are planning another sale for next October or November, so start saving up your items NOW! One way to do it is to have a box or bag in a closet or a corner of your basement or garage, and as you see things you don't need or want any more, put them in the box or bag. Then you'll be all set when the time comes!



### **From Your Board of Trustees**

What an amazing response we had to our "Giving Tree" campaign! Within nine days of announcing to the congregation the need to take down the dead ash tree on the church grounds the thousand dollars were in. It is not always easy to come to our members to let them know of large financial issues that need to be dealt with, but those of you who were able to donate to this cause made it seem so. Please know that the board of trustees is most appreciative. Pastor Rick continues to say it, but you are living proof that we are a generous group of

# May

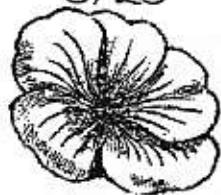


## Birthdays

5/7	Linda Wheeler
5/18	Roger Kennedy
5/22	Tieson Graham
5/26	Bob Felter
5/28	Chrisann Lowe

## Anniversaries

5/4	Mike and Mary Rutledge
5/15	Fred and Chrisann Lowe
5/17	Ryan and Marcie Graham
5/25	Chad and Liz Canfield



Head Usher

Naida Kenyon

Outreach Focus

Food Bank