

Mayflower Notes...

Mayflower Congregational Church

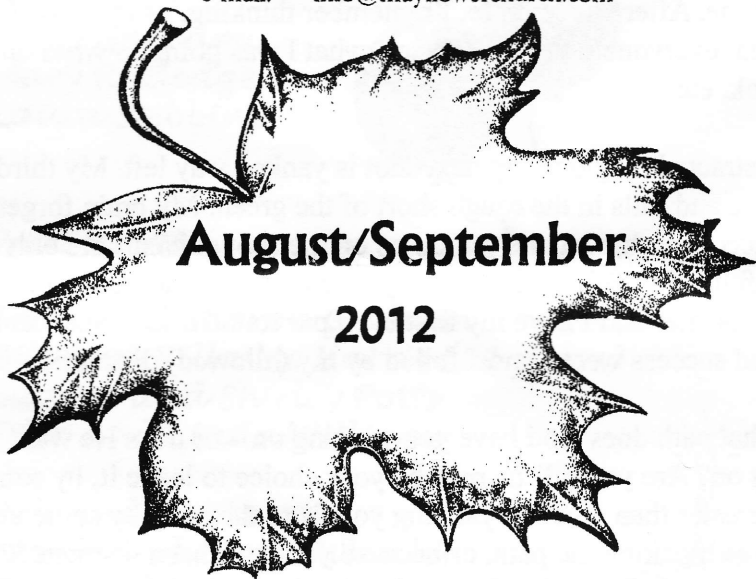
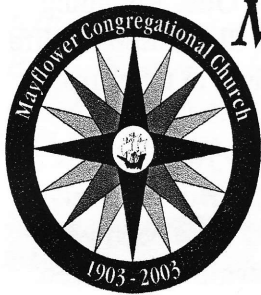
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Dr. Rick Martin

Pastor

From the Pastor's Desk

Distractions are annoying, but effective. I'd say, most Christians do not wake up one morning and conclude, "I'm done with God. I'm going my own way from here on." Far too often, it is the little distractions of life that woo us from the path God has for us, until we are lost in the forest.

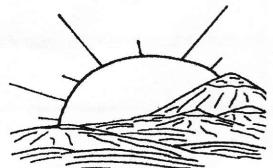
I have been a member of Olivet Golf Club for nearly two decades. It is a great little course and I enjoy 'nearly' everyone there. But until this year, I had not shot an even par round of 36 – although I have been very close many times. In July, I found myself on the verge again. I was even par with two holes to go, one of them being a par 5 that should be a birdie hole for me. After a nice drive, I remember thinking, as I walked to my ball, what everyone was going to say, what I was going to write on Facebook, etc.

Distracted by glory, my next shot is yanked way left. My third shot hits a tree and falls in the rough short of the green. My brain forgets the future accomplishment and refocuses on the shot at hand (the only way to successfully play golf or life). A very nice chip and successful putt; par. Four shots later and I have my first even par round at Olivet. Accomplishment and success were almost foiled by my (allowed) distraction.

What path does God have you walking on – or does He want you walking on? Are you off the path by your choice to leave it, by some power greater than yourself yanking you from the path, by some unforeseen force blocking the path, or because you have been distracted? Maybe it is time to refocus on the shot at hand, to get back on the path of God, look away from the distraction and set our attention fully to God. It worked for Jesus.

Luke 9:51

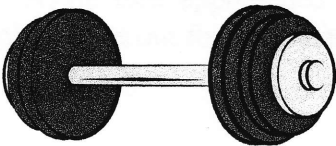
As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.



INSPIRATION

Many of us have now just finished watching the Olympic Games on television (and some of us, on our computer screens). Those following the games this year had the opportunity to watch full coverage of all sports through the magic of the internet in addition to the formal network coverage by NBC. As we watched these amazing feats of athletic ability, we saw the unlocked potential that God built into the human body, potential unleashed through years of dedication and discipline. In addition, as the Olympics proceeded, we hosted the summer Iron Egg weightlifting competition here in the social hall. It gave those in attendance a chance to see how the process starts at the local level for an athlete's development toward the dream of competing in the Olympic Games. Just as DeWitt's gold medalist Jordyn Wieber began gymnastics years ago as a tiny girl, so will the next generation of Olympians now be entering local contests of skill in the forty-one Olympic sports as they begin the road to what we recently viewed on TV. One of the competitors at our meet remarked how impressed he was with all the competitors' mutual support, despite the fact that they were competing against one another. As he continues to compete, he will see more of this everywhere he goes. There is a reason for this. In the pursuit of the skills required to master sports, people meet, form relationships, and pursue their ultimate potential in an atmosphere of love and support. They learn to respect one another's abilities and learn from each another. They learn to submit to coaching from those who have more knowledge. Olympic athletes have the encouragement and support from family, friends, and acquaintances in their pursuit of excellence. I wish you could all come to DeWitt and see the signs on the window of every business in town in support of Jordyn Wieber! It is truly an outpouring of love and support. Every four years, it happens again for the summer sports. Ten thousand athletes from around the globe come together to compete and pursue excellence in an atmosphere of peace and friendship, regardless of color, creed, or ideology. It think it makes God smile every time.

Fred Lowe



Mayflower Financial News

A brief summary for the month of:

July Income	\$ 8,644.42
Expenses	<u>6,240.99</u>
	\$ 2,403.43

YTD Income	\$ 55,551.63
Expenses	<u>52,286.13</u>
	\$ 3,265.50

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 14,216.05
Bequest Funds Savings	4,006.75
Memorial Fund CD	5,485.89
Savins CD	<u>22,289.21</u>
	\$ 45,996.90

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



Thrift Sale

Another thrift sale to benefit the church treasury is coming on November 2 and 3. Please 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 Iron Egg Weightlifting Event on October 20. 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 follow. See Lorraine or Ann to volunteer to help.

*Dates to remember in
August - September..*

<u>August 26</u>	Prudential Council
<u>August 26</u>	Communion
<u>September 3</u>	Labor Day
<u>September 6</u>	Choir Rehearsals begin
<u>September 8</u>	Second Saturday Supper
<u>September 15</u>	Deadline for Mayflower Notes
<u>September 16</u>	Rally Sunday and Picnic
<u>September 16</u>	Prudential Council
<u>September 30</u>	Communion
<u>September 30</u>	Advent House



Kitchen Update



Ann McClelland has taken a certification class offered by the state and is now in charge of the kitchen. Ann would like volunteers to form a Kitchen Committee to assist with different activities during the church year.

The kitchen will be going "green". We will be using china plates instead of styrafoam at dinners this year, including the Second Saturday Suppers. If you would like to help out please contact Ann.

Sunday School

I am very excited to begin another year of Sunday School. Morgan, Maggie and I will continue confirmation classes, and I hope that we will be having our first Confirmation service in many years in 2013. This is a very important moment in a Christian's life, and I encourage you all to support the girls as they move towards a meaningful spiritual commitment.

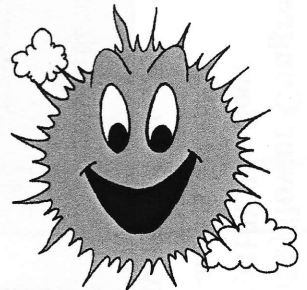
With the disparity of ages in our program, it makes it difficult to find lessons that reach all of the kids. That is why I am so lucky to have the assistance of Linda and Ann, with support from Sharon, in bringing our program to life. I look forward to another year teaching the children the joy to be found through Christ.

Liz



Picnic

The Rally Day Picnic is scheduled for Sunday, September 16th, immediately after church. Everyone is encouraged to bring their own plates, glasses, and silverware, as well as a dish to pass. A main dish and beverages will be provided. A sign-up sheet for side dishes will be posted outside the office and members are encouraged to fill it out so we have a variety of tasty dishes!



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