

Mayflower Notes...

Mayflower Congregational Church

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**August/September
2013**



Dr. Rick Martin

Pastor

Dates to remember in September...

September 1

Canned food
donations
for Salvation
Army

September 2

Labor Day

September 5

CROP Meeting

September 14

Second Saturday
Supper

September 15

Rally Day and
picnic

Deadline for May-
flower Notes

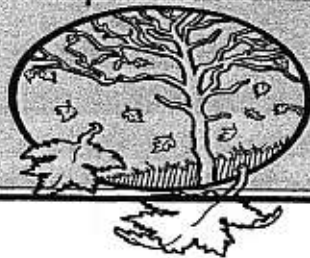
Prudential Council

September 29

Communion

September 29

Advent House



From the Pastor

Remember the days of big family reunions? It has kind of become a thing of the past in my family, but when I was a boy, annual family reunion was a big event. Ours probably had 150 people and took a committee a year to plan. Food, games, genealogy charts, listening to family stories and explaining to people you hadn't seen since last year whose kid you were. Everyone catching up on what everyone else has been up to the past year.

September of each year is like the Mayflower Family Reunion. I always look forward to seeing all the Mayflower family together again. All summer, we've been coming and going, vacationing, working, having surgery, going through physical therapy, traveling, playing, crying, getting new toys, losing loved ones, adding grandkids, so forth and so on. September calls us all back so we can worship and serve God together and catch up on all that's been happening in the Mayflower family.

If you have a good family, you are very fortunate. At Mayflower then, we are doubly fortunate. Not only do we have the family we were born into; we also have our church family. People who care about us, love us, pray for us, laugh with us and cry with us. It would be a terrible thing to have to forge through life alone. So God gave us family – some people we are related to by blood, and some people we are related to through His blood.

1 Peter 2:17

Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

Pastor



From our Lay Leader

As the weather begins to turn cool and we begin to adapt to the changing season, it reminds me that our church family also goes through seasonal changes. It is at this time of the year that we find ourselves returning to a more normal routine which also includes the return of our normal Mayflower activities. We find our Choir back in full concert glory, Sunday School and our weekly Children's Moment returning during our Sunday service, and the general return of our members from a summer of busy activities.

I would like to remind all that coming up this month and next are the Second Saturday Night Supper, Rally Sunday, Summer Iron Egg Weightlifting Competition, Annual Lugnuts Outing, 5th Sunday Advent House Lunches and our newly created First Sunday of the each month's 'Canned Food Donation' for the Salvation Army.

Each year we strive to bring beneficial and creative ideas into our church services and social activities to support our church presence in the community and the potential of growing our membership. Please join me in celebrating our annual fall reunion and continuing to do God's work!

EPITAPH (In a cemetery in England)

Remember man, as you walk by,
As you are now, so once was I,
As I am now, so shall you be,
Remember this and follow me.



To which someone replied by writing on the tombstone:

To follow you I'll not consent,



A service of the Blessing of the Animals

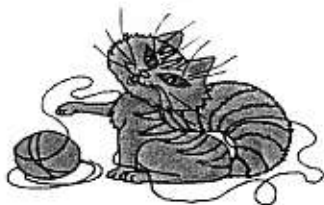
Mayflower Congregational Church
2901 W. Mt. Hope
Lansing, MI

Sunday, September 22nd
2:30 p.m.

For information call:
484-3139 from 9 - 12

Ice Cream Social to follow

All pets and their owners
are welcome!!!





While On Vacation...

We were standing in the town square in Williamsburg, Virginia, circa 1779, waiting for news of the war. Would war come at last to Virginia's capital? The words of our Declaration of Independence were read again to us, to remind us and strengthen us for the coming battles. "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal..."

However, these words were yet ambiguous. All men or white men only? Mankind, that is, all persons, or only males? Large issues of slavery, voting rights, and rights to own property were not fully addressed. The people had no idea how many years the nation would struggle and struggle again to achieve equal rights for all citizens.

The conclave met for weeks and seasons in Philadelphia. They had to negotiate carefully with the southern colonies. Full unity was needed to launch this campaign for freedom and liberty; all thirteen colonies had to be in agreement. Hard choices had to be made to proceed with the cause of independence. The issue of slavery was dropped so that the Declaration could be signed by representatives of all the colonies.

The treaty of the Seven-year's War in 1763 gave Great Britain total control over the American colonies. The colonies were then aggravated and overtaxed starting in 1765, with taxes on many consumable goods, such as sugar, salt, and tobacco. Importantly, the people felt that they were not being granted their rights as "free-born Englishmen," and being treated as lesser subjects of the crown.

War did come to Virginia, and the final battle of the war was won by the Patriots in nearby Yorktown in 1781.

We know that it was not freedom and liberty for all. Jesus would have us do better. We are all God's children. Love one another. We are all failed and cracked; love anyway, as God loves us. Turn the other cheek. Forgive 70*7 (meaning forever). Jesus gives us the roadmap, but he knows that we are weak and wounded. It is difficult; give it to God, He will help you to

know love and to love.

History shows that one group will oppress another group, with absolute justification. It does not matter where you look on the timeline or on the globe. We are not better in this age. Pray for peace. Pray for Egypt, Libya, Mali, Congo, Zimbabwe, Israel, Palestine, Russia, Mexico... Pray for wisdom. Pray for human kindness. Pray for peace.

Chrisann

Mayflower Choir Thursday begins August 29
7:30-9:00

Mayflower Handbells Thursday begins August 22
5:55 - 7:15

You are most welcome to participate!

Also, make a hymn suggestion whenever you like.



Thrift Sale

Another thrift sale to benefit the church treasury is coming this fall, either October 25-26 or November 15-16. Please start now to check around your house to find good, saleable things that you have 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 at home until we have a date established. As usual, we will need a lot of help to set up, run the sale, and clean up after the sale, so please plan to help if you can. All dates will be announced soon.



Thanks from the Finisons

We want to thank everyone for their many kindnesses and expressions of sympathy on the death of her father, Angelo Vassallo, on June 11. We especially appreciated all the cards, the beautiful plant from the church, and all those who came to the memorial service in Coopersville. Thank you all!

After Church Coffee Hour

As a courtesy to the people who plan and provide food for the after-church coffee, would you please contact them ahead of time if you have goodies to contribute on a Sunday morning? We love your contributions, but it might affect how the person responsible for the after-church coffee that day plans what they are bringing.

1st Sun. of the month: Barb and Jerry Fuller

2nd Sun. of the month: Rilla and Bill McHarris

3rd Sun. of the month: Saralu Chamberlain

4th Sun. of the month: Laura Anderson

5th Sun. of the month: Blanche Samohovetz



From Your Board of Trustees

Your trustees have continued to try to keep our church facility running smoothly this summer. The Giving Tree gives no more thanks to a number of generous contributions, and there is a new lawn mower helping Dean with his cutting of the grass, again thanks to a number of generous donations. Staff job descriptions were tweaked these past few months, and annual staff reviews are being wrapped up with the intention of working on better communication throughout the church. Your trustees have worked diligently with the hope that the precious lives our church serves will reap the benefits and rewards of a more organized organization!!!



- The Salvation Army has a critical need for canned goods. The Prudential Council has voted to designate the first Sunday of the month a canned good drive day for the next church year. Please bring non-perishable food stuffs to the church and deposit them in the bucket placed outside the office every month. The Salvation Army kindly requests that you bring only non-expired goods, as they are unable to use expired products and must throw them away.



Sunday School report:

I am excited about beginning yet another Sunday School year here at Mayflower Congregational Church! I am really thrilled about watching how the kids grow in Christ, and how they have come to a deeper understanding of a Christian life in the years I have been teaching. It has been wonderful to take this journey with them.

I am finishing up Confirmation studies with Morgan and Maggie. The process has taken longer than I originally thought, but I am confident we will be done before the end of 2013. This will be a great celebration, as it has been a long time since we had a Confirmation class at Mayflower!

Dominic has identified a list of topics he is interested in studying in-depth, and he and Ann are working through them together on the weeks that I am teaching Confirmation. Linda has taken responsibility for Trace and Tieler on those weeks, and they are studying various Bible stories.

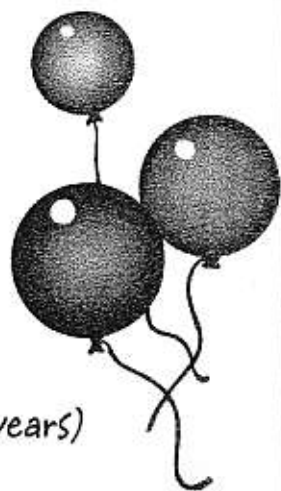
I am looking at resources for teaching all the kids on the alternate weeks, and moving forward after Confirmation is done. I hope to have more information by Rally Sunday. We've had a big summer, and I looking forward to another great year.

Liz

August

Birthdays

- 8/4 Jaclyn (Holmes) Thobaben
- 8/9 Kim Finison
- 8/12 Ryan Graham
- 8/17 Megan (Holmes) Faulkner
- 8/20 Jerry Fuller
- 8/21 Sharon Graham
- 8/26 Sue Emrick



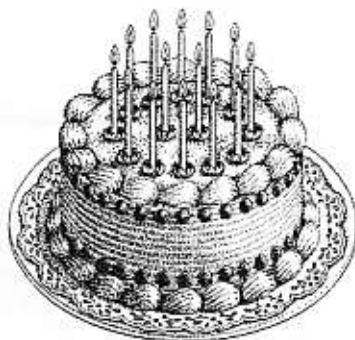
Anniversaries

- 8/24 Terry and Sharon Graham
- 8/27 Bill and Rilla McHarris (51 years)
- 8/27 Eugene and Shirley Potts
- 8/27 Dick and Linda Williams

September

Birthdays

- 9/12 Bill McHarris
- 9/12 Kimberly Strong
- 9/20 Terry Graham
- 9/21 Mary Rutledge
- 9/25 Laura Stebbins



Anniversaries

- 9/5 Bob and Sue Mott
- 9/21 Frank and Linda Wheeler
- 9/26 Dick and Nancy McKasy
- 9/30 Dave and Ann McClelland