

Mayflower Notes...



Mayflower Congregational Church

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**February
2010**

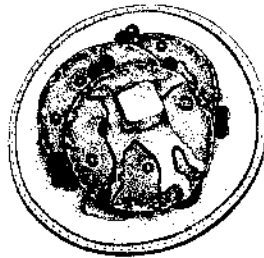
Dr. Rick Martin

Pastor

Men's Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner

The Mayflower men are once again coming together to do the Men's Fat Tuesday Pancake Dinner on February 16th. Dinner will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 including pancakes, sausage and applesauce plus a beverage. The cost of the meal is \$4 for adults and \$2.50 for children. All proceeds will be going towards Missions this year.

Bill McHarris will be providing the entertainment during the meal.



Corned Beef, Cabbage and Music

The ever-popular corned beef and cabbage dinner returns again this year on the weekend after St. Patrick's Day. The meal will be prepared once again by Dave McClelland, so we know it will be delicious! As an added attraction, the "Gracewood Singers" with our own Warren Emrick, Kim Finison and Jerry Fuller, will provide entertainment after dinner.

Due to the cost of the ingredients, tickets must be purchased in advance; watch for announced sale times. The cost will be \$8; the meal will be served from 5 to 6 pm with music to follow.

So, gather family and friends, find a shamrock, wear a bit o' the green and join the festivities.



Lessons Learned

Author unknown

One day, the father of a very wealthy family took his son on a trip to the country with the express purposed of showing him how poor people live.

They spent a couple of days and nights on the farm of what would be considered a very poor family.

On their return from their trip, the father asked his son, "How was the trip?"

"It was great, Dad."

"Did you see how poor people live?" asked the father.

"Oh yeah," said the son.

"So, tell me what you learned from the trip" asked the father.

The son answered: "I saw that we have one dog and they had four. We have a pool that reaches to the middle of our garden and they have a creek that has no end. We have imported lanterns in our garden and they have the stars at night. Our patio reaches to the fron yard and they have the whole horizon."

"We have a small piece of land to live on and they have fields that go beyond our sight."

"We have servants who serve us, but they serve others. We buy our food, they grow theirs."

"We have walls around our property to protect us, they have friends to protect them."

The boy's father was speechless.



From the Pastor's Desk
By Pastor Rick Martin

HOPE

February in Michigan: cold, snowy, poor driving conditions, high heating bills, heavy coats and scarves and gloves, slippery walks and drive-ways, and HOPE. Yes, that's correct, HOPE. In February we begin to notice the days getting longer, more sunshine days, and a hint every now and then that Spring is just a few weeks away. Six weeks until golf -- yeah! Hope is a wonderful thing.

Sometimes our Christian life is like a bad February in Michigan -- a struggle just to get through each day. It seems like it has been forever since the good days of summer were here; and there is no light at the end of the tunnel. At times like these, human hope (that spring is just weeks away) isn't enough. Therefore, God gives us "**strong encouragement**" and a hope "**as an anchor of the soul**" to help us.

Hebrews 6:17-19

God, desiring even more to show to the heirs of the promise the unchangeableness of His purpose, interposed with an oath, so that by two unchangeable things in which it is impossible for God to lie, we who have taken refuge would have strong encouragement to take hold of the hope set before us. This hope we have as an anchor of the soul, a hope both sure and steadfast...

Ps 121:1,2

I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; from where shall my help come?
My help comes from the LORD, Who made heaven and earth.

It is true that God's Hope doesn't inadvertently fall on us during our dark days. However, as we turn our attention from what is dragging us down and refocus on the Lord Jesus, His Hope will invade our darkness; being **an anchor** to our soul. His Hope will give us **strong encouragement**. His Hope will be **sure and steadfast** in us. His Hope will **not disappoint** us. His Hope will enable us to walk through the dark February days of our life with **joy and peace**, knowing that God's days of spring are right around the corner.

(Pastor Rick's message cont.)

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

Rom 15:13

Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.



February already? This time of year is always the dreariest - the holiday glow is gone and spring seems so far away!

Fortunately, we have lots going in Sunday School to keep us busy. On the last Sunday in January, we had the privilege of having a guest speaker from Advent House explain to the children what a wonderful program they provide. The kids have enjoyed participating in the program for the last few months - in fact, they want to do it all themselves!

Our music and class lessons continue on, and plans are coming together for a Confirmation class for our oldest children. Confirmation is an important ritual in the Congregational Church, and I am eagerly anticipating teaching and learning with my class. We always welcome new children, and there's always something going on. If anyone has an interest in sharing a talent or skill with our children, please contact me. We'll beat those winter blahs together!



Liz Canfield

Stewardship Minute Message

Achieving Greatness

People don't change much, do they? The same sin that brought about the Fall of Adam and Eve into sin is still the one that seems to plague us the most today: pride. Pride was what brought the mother of James and John to Jesus requesting that her two sons could sit at Jesus' right and left in His kingdom. When the other disciples heard about this request, the Gospel writer Matthew describes them as "*indignant*." You can imagine how uncomfortable the situation was, but Jesus turned it into an avenue to explain what His agenda was and still is. "*Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave.*" Then He added, "*Just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many*" (Matthew 20:26-27).

How many of us joined this church to serve? How many of us joined a church based on what it had to offer us? How many of us are following Jesus' example of serving wherever we find opportunity?

Jesus didn't hide out in some cozy little place for the three years of His ministry. He was out and about, touching people, healing people, and teaching them. He taught with His words and with His actions. He said He "*came to seek and to save what was lost*" (Luke 19:10). We were those lost ones, dead in our sin, when Christ died for us (Romans 5:8).

Those who are lost don't know where to look for Him. He's commanded us to tell the Gospel message and to teach and baptize – to lead the lost to Him. Yet we've heard long-standing church members say, "I wasn't in church for three weeks, and no one called me!" While it's true that we should be encouraging one another and be sensitive to their needs and circumstances, doesn't it seem strange that we need to be invited to our own church? We should be the ones extending the invitations to others!

Neither should we be waiting for a call to come to ask us to serve in some way where the need is evident. The bulletin or newsletter has articles describing areas of service and the need for volunteers. Do you initiate the call and ask, "Could I be the one to fill that need?" Greatness. Maybe we all desire to have it. Certainly we desire to be noticed and appreciated. But those feelings were absent from Jesus' life of service. When He was jeered as He hung on the cross, He didn't say, "Forget about this! If they don't appreciate what I'm doing, I'm not going through with it!" No, He hung there and died because He "*came to seek and to save what was lost.*" True greatness is achieved through serving others.

Music Ministry

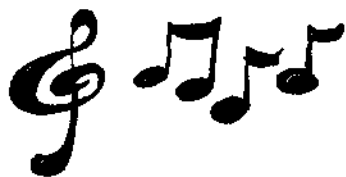
February will have a special emphasis on missions; we will focus on global issues and needs, and on our place in the world. We will feature songs and hymns from many cultures, and songs that emphasize our connection to the greater world around us. The adult and children's choirs will combine on an anthem, "Prayer of the Children" on February 7.

Beginning Bells has returned at 5:00 pm on Fridays. We welcome new ringers; we will teach you what you need to know. We have two new ringers at this point and they are doing very well in learning this new skill!

Lent will begin February 17. The Adult choir has a beautiful new setting of Agnus Dei (Lamb of God), which uses thoughtful, modern harmony and concludes with a low, gentle ending. Another piece, City Called Heaven, has a slow, gospel swing and uses the text "I'm trying to make it, make Heaven my Home."

The children's choir is meeting after church each week; they are learning pieces for Easter and other occasions.

The Mayflower Ringers will play for service at the Grandhaven Manor Alzheimer wing on January 31 at 3:00 pm. We have a new ringer which gives us eight ringers; it is a great start to the new year!



Chrisann Lowe

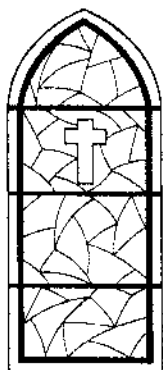
A Thank You Note from the Adams Family

To all at Mayflower, you have no idea what this meant to us. Thank you so much for the help. I don't know where to start or stop. This was quite a gift after coming home just the day before from 8 days in the hospital. Thank you so much!

Roger and Jeffrey Adams

Report from the Prudential Council

At January's Prudential Council it was decided that February is to be designated as "A Month for Missions". Special focus will be on collecting funds for the Haitian Relief effort. To promote this effort there will be a wonderful anthem, pictures, displays and after-church luncheon on February 7th. Also, any profits made from the pancake and corned beef dinners will be given to mission outreach. Anyone interested in contributing items representing "third world" countries for our display, please contact Roger Kennedy. Let's all support these worthwhile efforts!



The Most Caring Child

by: Ellen Kreidman

Author and lecturer Leo Buscaglia once talked about a contest he was asked to judge. The purpose of the contest was to find the most caring child. The winner was a four-year-old child, whose next-door neighbor was an elderly gentleman who had recently lost his wife. Upon seeing the man cry, the little boy went into the old gentleman's yard, climbed onto his lap and just sat there. When his mother asked him what he said to the neighbor, the little boy said, "Nothing, I just helped him cry."

