

# Mayflower Congregational Church



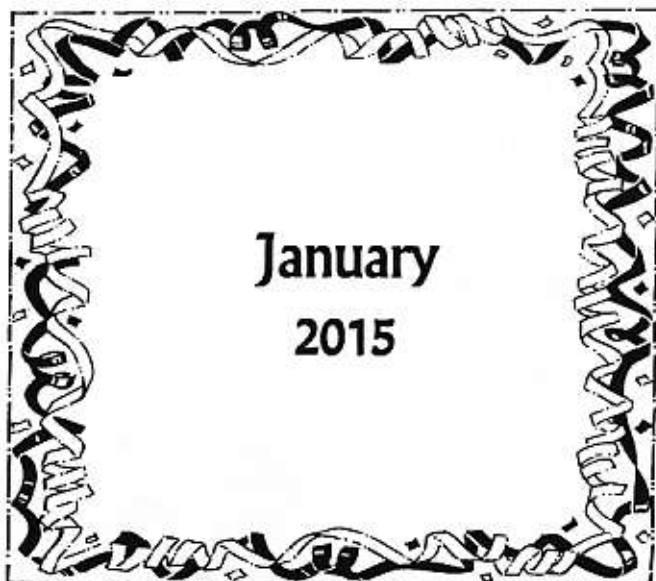
2901 W. Mt. Hope, Lansing, MI 48911

Telephone: 517-484-3139

Fax: 484-3139

Web site: [www.mayflowerchurch.com](http://www.mayflowerchurch.com)

e-mail: [info@mayflowerchurch.com](mailto:info@mayflowerchurch.com)



**Dr. Rick Martin**

Pastor

---

---



# January

## *Birthdays*

- 1/8 Jamet Hershey*  
*1/11 Abigail Rutledge*  
*1/24 Susan Schweinfurth*  
*1/26 John Rolfe*  
*1/28 Kathryn Fuller*

## *Anniversaries*

- 1/1 Jerry & Barb Fuller*

*Head Usher*

*Lois Ries*

*Outreach Focus*

*The Mitten Tree*



## *From the Pastor's Desk*

### **2015: New Year – Same Jesus**

Welcome to 2015! I pray 2015 will be a year of blessing and prosperity for you. May it be the best year you have yet experienced on planet Earth (Of course, it will pale compared to your first day in Heaven).

No one can predict what 2015 will hold – many do try. The Doomsday heralds will predict doom and gloom. The Hates will spew hatred (some in the name of righteousness). The UFO seekers will be hoping for touch down, to find out where we came from (I know, but no one asks). Religious extremists (we have many such groups) are hoping to take over the world and run it “correctly”. Some things never change.

One of the positive things that never changes is Jesus. ***Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever*** (Hebrews 13:8). A good way to get to know Jesus' character is reading the Bible, especially the New Testament, often – daily is not too much. What God wants for us is also unchanging. ***“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”*** (Jeremiah 29:11).

I don't know the exact details of God's will for 2015. I do know that as we (individually and collectively) continue to seek His will and follow in His steps for us, a year of blessing lies before us. Over every mountain top and through every valley, the God who never changes will continue to lead us and bless us; as we continue to seek and follow Him. It is going to be a blessed year!



I am always amazed when I think about how this congregation pulls together to accomplish monumental tasks. For example, the infamous weekend in November when a large memorial service reception and Second Saturday Supper happened on the same day. A seemingly impossible situation was handled exceptionally well, although, we've agreed to not test our abilities again (as in not double-booking events such as these in the future).

I have had the privilege of serving this wonderful congregation over the past year as Lay Leader. With your monetary and moral support, the Prudential Council has worked through a very busy agenda, accomplishing much more than I had thought possible. I thank the Trustees for their accomplishments on the many property improvements. I would especially like to thank Kim Finison for all of his work in the design and installation of our new sound system. I wish it were possible to thank everyone whom I worked with but that list would be quite long and I would probably miss someone.

Bill McHarris, our Lay Leader Elect, mentioned in his consecration moment that he is optimistic about the future of Mayflower Church. I share that thought. The dedication and faithfulness of its people matched with God's unwavering faithfulness will ensure its continued ministry. I wish everyone to have the peace of Christ and the gifts of His spirit in 2015.

Jerry Fuller  
Lay Leader



## **NACCC Positions**

Nominations are now open for volunteer positions within the NACCC. The nominating form, plus additional information about open positions, is available on the website.

In the past year, the NACCC's Center for Congregational Leadership has produced two handbooks for local churches to use in teaching about the NACCC and Congregationalism. They are the Church Membership Handbook and The Art and Practice of the Congregational Way. Hard copies of both have been sent to every member church of the Association.

## It's yesterday somewhere, isn't it?

2015! 8 years ago, Chad and I moved into our new (to us) house, and I hung on the wall those circular photo frames for each year's school pictures. In the center of each, I made a little piece of paper with each girl's year of graduation on it. As they were all still in elementary school, it seemed impossibly far away – we were dealing with gapped teeth, refusal to go to bed at 8:30, and homemade Christmas ornaments!

Yet we're here, in this new year, seeing the first graduation on the horizon, and with all the girls in high school. As I move through the fog of hair products and perfume that is our upstairs, I miss those scrawny girls. I miss warm and wiggly wet children just out of the bathtub, and blurting out whatever they are thinking, and loud, exuberant dinners. But I also love meeting the young women who are emerging in this process.

So much of life is balanced between loss and gain. We have to lose the baby to gain the toddler, and that is just the first step in a lifetime of letting go. Over and over again, we bid goodbye to hopes and dreams, and embrace the reality we're given instead. The trick lies in always moving forward – but the start of a new year is a wonderful time to reflect on what's gone before us.

In 2015, I hope to work harder on doing what God wants me to do – if I can keep Liz from trying to grab the steering wheel and changing direction. If I keep moving on my road, helping others, and always putting kindness and compassion at the forefront, I will probably avoid many of the pitfalls ahead. Let's begin our new year re-dedicated to being a humble example of God's love for us, and show that through our deeds.

Liz



## Mayflower Financial News

Our November 2nd Saturday Supper was again a success with a profit of \$611.71. To date we have received \$4843 in donations towards the cost of \$5500 needed to improve and upgrade our sound system. .

A brief summary of our finances as of November 30, 2014:

Income:	\$ 10,460.66
Expenses:	7,537.88
	\$ 2,922.78

YTD for Eleven Months

Income:	\$ 90,532.30
Expenses:	86,302.35
	\$ 4,229.95

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 17,176.32
Bequest Funds Savings	4,010.04
Memorial Fund CD	5,495.10
CD Savings	22,305.16
	\$ 48,986.62

A more detailed report is available in the brochure rack near the church office.

Linda Wheeler  
Treasurer



## From the Music Department

*After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi (Wise Men) from the east came to Jerusalem and asked, "Where is the One who has been born king of the Jews? We saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him." (Matthew 2:1,2)*

January 6th extending to Ash Wednesday is known as Epiphany in the liturgical year. It is believed that this is the time the Christ Child was revealed to the wise men as the Light of the world. Bible scholars generally believe that these wise men from the East arrived about two years after the birth of Christ. The hymn *As With Gladness Men of Old* eludes to the journey the wise men took, searching diligently to find the Christ child and offer him gifts that represented their devotion to him.

*As with gladness men of old did the guiding star behold – as with joy they hailed its light, leading onward, beaming bright...*

At Mayflower we do not spend much time focusing on Epiphany although it is rather an important time of year when you come to understand it. When you think about these individuals traveling for two years to reach their destination and then afterwards their journey back home to spread the news about the birth of Christ, it is impressive to say the least. Perhaps it is a reminder to us that the news of the Savior that we believe in should go beyond the walls of our church, out into our community and into the rest of the world. As the hymn states at the end of the first stanza, "*So most gracious Lord, may we Evermore be led to Thee.*"



Barb

## **Annual Meeting**

**Mayflower's annual meeting will take place on Sunday, January 25th. There will be a chili luncheon immediately following the service. Please bring chili to combine or crackers, cheese or corn bread. The meeting will take place in Fellowship Hall after the luncheon. Please take a booklet and remember to sign in.**



## **The Obstacle in Our Path**

In ancient times, a king had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself and watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the king's wealthiest merchants and courtiers came by and simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the king for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the big stone out of the way. Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. On approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden and tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing and straining, he finally succeeded. As the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. The purse contained many gold coins and a note from the king indicating that the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway. The peasant learned what many others never understand. Every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve one's condition.



*It's what is happening in  
January...*

- 1/1            New Year's Day -  
                  Office Closed*
- 1/4            Communion*
- 1/6            Epiphany*
- 1/10           Second Saturday Supper*
- 1/13           Trustees Meeting*
- 1/15           Due date for Mayflower  
                  Notes*
- 1/18           Prudential Council - noon*
- 1/19           ML king Jr. Day*
- 1/25           Annual Meeting*



# January 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31		1 New Year's Day Office closed	2	3
4 Communion	5	6	7	8 Handbells 3:45 Set-up 4:00 - 5:15 Rehearsal Choir 5:30 - 7	9	10 Second Saturday Supper 5 pm
11	12	13	14	15 Handbells 4:00 - 5:15 Choir 5:30 - 7 Newsletter deadline	16	17
18 Prudential Council - noon	19	20	21	22 Handbells 3:45 Set-up 4:00 - 5:15 Rehearsal Choir 5:30 - 7	23	24
25 Annual Meeting	26	27	28	29 Handbells 3:45 Set-up 4:00 - 5:15 Rehearsal Choir 5:30 - 7	30	31
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Notes:

