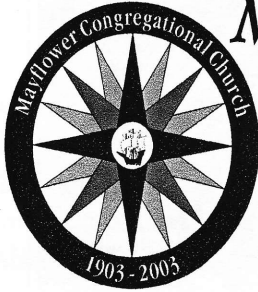


# Mayflower Notes...



## *Mayflower Congregational Church*

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**Dr. Rick Martin**

**Pastor**

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*Dates to remember in  
April...*



May 5

*Landscape Day*

May 12

*Second Saturday Supper*

May 13

*Mother's Day*

May 15

*Deadline for Mayflower  
Notes*

May 20

*Music Recognition  
Sunday*

May 20

*Prudential Council  
Meeting 12 p.m.*

May 27

*Pentecost*

May 30

*Memorial Day*



**Head Usher**

Naida Kenyon

**Outreach Focus**

## From the Pastor's Desk

I've been thinking about the grace of God. My Christian walk started out in the legalistic side of the church. Do something wrong, BAM (God hits you with his big club). Say something wrong, BAM. I heard, more than once from the pulpit, if you don't repent before you go to sleep every night and you die you'll go to Hell because you had a bad thought during the day. That is a hard way to live!

Then I started reading my Bible. Come to find out, God isn't nearly as hateful as some people make Him out to be. God isn't looking for an excuse to BAM us. God isn't trying to send us to Hell for a bad thought or word or action. Plus, there isn't nearly as many sins listed in the Bible as in some churches. God isn't looking to give us what we deserve, but is finding ways to reconcile us to Him; which He did through Jesus Christ's life, suffering, death & resurrection.

Romans 3:24,25

being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. This was to demonstrate His righteousness, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed;

God's grace: not giving us what we (who have faith in God through Jesus) deserve, but instead, giving us what Jesus deserves, because Jesus was the sacrifice in our place. Because of God's grace, we receive the forgiveness of our sins, an intimate relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and eternity in Heaven. That inspires me to strive to be a better person during my life on earth.



## Promise of New Life

It is April 18, 2012. I am three days late submitting my newsletter article. I just filed our taxes yesterday, on the last day for regular filing. It seems that my human nature is shining through just fine so far this spring. With God's help, I will do better next month. I get a lot of writing ideas looking out my back window, and today is no exception. What I see is a large pond which forms every spring as the result of snowmelt and rainwater runoff.

Today the pond is at full volume, but by the end of June it will be gone. But right now, it's such a fine ecosystem that a male and female duck come to visit each spring, and today is no exception...they're out there happily paddling away and bobbing for morsels under the water. The sun is shining, trees and shrubs are blooming, and everywhere I look there is promise of new life as the spring proceeds. Sixty days ago this was certainly not the case, when all was cold, bleak and lifeless.

Our change of season here from winter to spring directly parallels the Holy Day of Easter. After the crucifixion of Jesus, there couldn't have been a bleaker outlook for the disciples as his lifeless body was removed from the cross and placed in the tomb. Hopeless and despairing, they contemplated a dangerous future with no support from their departed teacher. And then, three days later – CAME THE MORNING. The morning that changed everything for those disciples.

This morning symbolizes our rebirth when we accept Jesus Christ into our heart. It is a promise of a new existence, limitless hope, and divinely powered strength in this life, along with the promise of an eternity of love and serenity.

In Galatians 2:20, Paul sums things up perfectly when he states, "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. "As the days warm and new life springs forth, let us contemplate these words and their implications for us.

Fred

Many thanks to all of you who helped in our music offerings for the Lenten season and Easter Sunday. The handbells played an anthem with Bill McHarris on the organ part; what a grand time. Brass parts played on a keyboard also enhanced the choral anthem. The choir sang with gusto and glory! Praise Be!

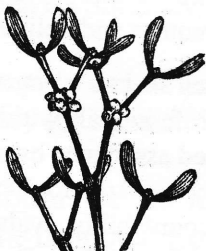
The date for Music Sunday is May 20. You will hear three contrasting anthems by the Mayflower Choir. The Handbells will play the second tune of "All Hail the Power of Jesus" name. We will also provide a reception following the service.

Some time ago, we had a service featuring the idea of miracles in our lives. Most of us have stories of healing, such as cancer treatments that are successful, or heart operations that allow us many more years. Fred had an injured neck vertebra that healed without special care, but with our prayers.

Recently, my friend explained that she was moving to a home that was on one level, saving her many flights of stairs, and guiding her into her future. Her home was not on the market and I wondered how she would accomplish these many transactions. O my faithless self, her home sold in a day! How great and wondrous is that? When you see Karen Nault you can ask her about her miracle.

CareSource Michigan is a Medicaid HMO where I have been working in a temporary part time position since January. On April 17, their employees were told that they were sold to McLaren Health Plan. These good people have worked very hard, some for many years. They will have to reapply for employment with McLaren. Please pray for them; let God's good plans be with them.

Chrisann



## From the NACCC

**The Strategic Plan approved by the delegates at the NACCC Annual Meeting in 2011 identified these areas in which the NACCC should focus service delivery:**

- Worship: style and form and the shape of worship in the 21st century
- Conflict management
- Pastoral Search
- Stewardship education: promoting a culture of generosity and hospitality; not primarily programs
- Governance: a structure that works
- Identity: Congregational polity and practice
- Leadership training
- Technology uses
- Vision and strategic planning within local churches
- Mission Outreach
- Inquiring churches

The Service Delivery subcommittee envisions a system of service networking in three tiers:

**Tier 1—General Information and Resources.** Resources associated with the key function areas of **Congregational Growth, Congregational Vitality and Congregational Missions/Outreach**, provided electronically through the NA website and physically through materials provided in general mailings.

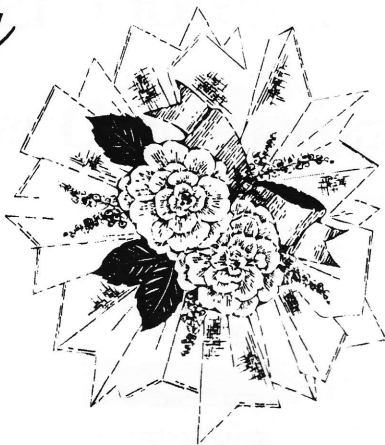
**Tier 2—Specific Needs.** Those churches seeking resources, counsel or more than ‘general’ information **may request help from** the National Association Office. Depending on the nature of the request, the resource or referral will be provided through a range of methods including: phone, e-mail, or personal contact. Needs that are best met through personal contact may be delivered by a person within that church’s state or region. That individual may be clergy or a layperson with gifts in the area of concern. The church’s Year Round Delegate may be a key communication link for this service request and delivery.

**Tier 3—Intensive Interaction.** When a church seeks assistance with a complex challenge that can best be addressed by professionals with specific expertise the NACCC office may provide the needed assistance by one of their professional staff or provide a referral to a person recognized for having those skills to assist the church. Specifics for vetting, accountability, evaluation, and potential fee for service will be created in cooperation with Rev. Dr. Betsey Mauro, Dean of the Congregational Center for Leadership.

# May

## Birthdays

- 5/5 Judas Wilson
- 5/7 Linda Wheeler
- 5/15 Marcie Graham
- 5/18 Roger Kennedy
- 5/20 Betty Buck
- 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
- 5/22 Angie and Manuel Lopez
- 5/25 Chad and Liz Canfield



## Spring Clean-up

Most of you know by now that the Spring outdoor clean-up and landscaping will happen on Saturday, May 5th from 9 - noon.

Lunch will be provided. Please sign up on the white board and indicate if you plan to stay for lunch. You can also call the office.

Also we are forming a landscape committee to maintain floral areas and particularly the memorial garden. These areas really need ongoing attention. If interested please contact anyone on the Prudential Council.

Thank you!