

Mayflower Congregational Church



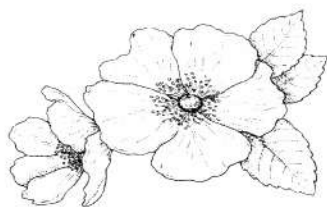
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**May
2018**

Rev. Mark McCormick
Pastor



It's happening in May at Mayflower...

- 5/6 Lunch and Learn
after coffee hour
- 5/10 Trustees 2:30 p.m.
- 5/12 Second Saturday
Supper 5 p.m.
- 5/13 Mother's Day
- 5/15 Deadline for the Notes
June/July
Dream Team 6 p.m.
- 5/20 Music Sunday and
End of the year picnic
Prudential Council TBA
- 5/28 Memorial Day- office
closed



Pastor Mark's Musings

By the time each of you read this, our first Dream Team gathering will have already taken place. Some of you will have been there. Others may not attend, but will be curious. Still others might wonder why this expenditure of time and resources is necessary. I want to be helpful and transparent as your pastor, so here is what is in my thinking.

When I was called to Mayflower, I was aware of a burden I would assume. Like many churches, perhaps most, Mayflower has declined over the years. I could think of this pastorate as a nice job (and it is) to get me through to when I would might fully retire. Whatever happens, happens. A good ministry with, sadly, far more funerals than baptisms. Not much change, and our comfort level not significantly disturbed. And in all likelihood, our congregation would inch closer to the possibility of closing its doors, as it might have a time or two in the past. Is that what you would want? Is that what I would want? If not, how would we change the natural course of events?

The burden I bear, and you too, is the painful but challenging reality that in order to reverse the cycle of decline, change is necessary. But what will change look like? Will we all agree on the changes which might be made? Will it cause dissension, tension or discomfort?

So, herein lies an insight to my (our) burden and challenge. Before we make significant changes, whether it be our worship, program, staff or facilities, we need to first determine our bedrock beliefs and core values. That is the first order of business for the Dream Team. For me, as your pastor, this is a listening experience. That is exciting for me. What I hope will be exciting for all of us is to listen to each other. We will then have established a great foundation to move forward, with Christ as our head, into opportunities for our church to make an even larger impact in our neighborhood, community and world!

In Christ's loving service,

Pastor Mark



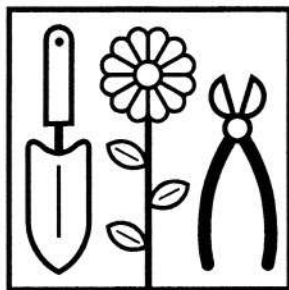
From the Lay Leader

Last month I mentioned a way to get involved in the life of Mayflower Church by serving on the Prudential Council. Another way is to join a group of enthusiastic people who help bring life to the outside of our church building. You may have thought that this positive curb appeal is natural, but not so. Once in spring and usually in the fall we have a church beautification day. Recently we have had ten or more people come out for the event. This spring it will be happening on Saturday, May 19th, weather permitting.

There is something for everyone to do, even if you're not typically handy with yard work. For instance, in the past Laura has brought donuts and milk for the workers – thanks, Laura! There's fixing, sorting, wheelbarrowing and making sure everyone has the tools they need for the job. If you're not sure how to do something there is always someone to help you get started. It's a rewarding way to spend a Saturday morning and you'll get to know these coworkers in a different way than you do on Sunday mornings. Typical tasks are spreading mulch, pruning bushes, raking and tending flower beds. Sometimes we have a special project to do like painting the railings. It's only for three hours so the key is to have as many workers as possible (how does that "many hands" saying go?)

There'll be a sign-up sheet on the white board so think about participating if you are able. I guarantee you'll have a good time and at the end of the day our church exterior will be smiling!

Jerry Fuller



Mayflower Financial News



Our March Second Saturday Supper was a near sell-out, which resulted in proceeds of \$783. We had great help and all went well!

We also had good attendance at the Dave McClelland Memorial Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner on March 17. The proceeds from that dinner totaled \$591. Thanks to Liz Canfield for shopping and cooking and to Sue Mott for managing everything else for the dinner--and, of course, thanks to all who helped in any way.

The total for the two dinners was \$1374. That amount, coupled with low expenses and good collections, gave us an excess of income v. expenses of over \$4000 this month. Much better than recent months!

The following is a summary of our finances as of March 31:

Income:	\$ 9,829.35
Expenses:	<u>5,713.25</u>
	\$ 4,116.10

YTD for Three Months:

Income:	\$ 23,193.33
Expenses:	<u>20,241.09</u>
	\$ 2,952.24

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 8,608.64
Savings:	31,534.06
Heat Fund Savings:	20,842.60
Memorial Fund CD:	5,520.30
Savings CD:	<u>22,390.08</u>
	\$ 88,895.68

A more detailed report is available in the brochure rack near the church office. If you have any questions, just ask!

— Linda Wheeler, Treasurer

May

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5		1	2	3	4	5
				Handbells 4:00 p.m. Choir 5:30 p.m.		
6	7	8	9	10 Trustees 2:30 p.m. Handbells 4:00 p.m. Choir 5:30 p.m.	11	12
Lunch and Learn after coffee hour						Second Saturday Supper 5 p.m.
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
		Notes deadline June/July Dream Team Meeting 6 p.m.		Handbells 4:00 p.m. Choir 5:30 p.m.		
Mother's Day						
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Music Sunday End of the year picnic						
27	28	29	30	31		
	Memorial Day Office closed					

Everyone Has a Story in Life

A 24 year old boy seeing out from the train's window shouted...

"Dad, look the trees are going behind!"

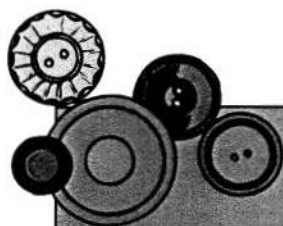
Dad smiled and a young couple sitting nearby, looked at the 24 year old's childish behavior with pity, suddenly he again exclaimed...

"Dad, look the clouds are running with us!"

The couple couldn't resist and said to the old man...

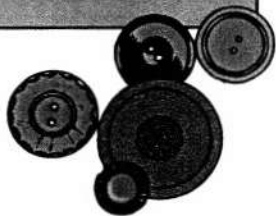
"Why don't you take your son to a good doctor?" The old man smiled and said... "I did and we are just coming from the hospital, my son was blind from birth, he just got his eyes today."

Every single person on the planet has a story. Don't judge people before you truly know them. The truth might surprise you



Thrift Sale

Thanks to all who donated items for the thrift sale and/or worked in setting up, selling, and cleaning up! Proceeds will go to the church's general fund. We plan to have another sale as usual in late October, so start saving up your items NOW! A good way to do it is to have a box or bag in a closet or a corner of your basement or garage, and as you see things you don't need or want any more, put them there. Then you'll be ahead of the game when the time comes!



Music Notes



By the time we come to the end of a musical year at Mayflower I am asking myself where the time has gone. Let's do the math...there are 52 weeks in a year, 15 weeks during the summer that the choir doesn't sing and the bells don't ring, so that leaves 37 weeks that our Mayflower musicians have met for rehearsals and created music to enhance our worship services from September through May. That's a lot of rehearsing and performing and yet it feels like a drop in the hat to me.

Besides the preparation for our "normal" Sundays, Mayflower's musicians usually have their sights set on special events they are focusing on, as well. This past year it has been Pastor Mark's installation service, Christmas Eve, Easter, and now our upcoming Music Appreciation Sunday.

Let me tease you with a few highlights to look forward to on May 20th. The handbells, who have been playing preludes for our services this year will not only be playing the prelude but will also play one of the most beautiful arrangements of "Amazing Grace" I have ever heard. The choir will more than likely be singing two major anthems, both powerful in their own right as well as ending the service with a lovely benediction response entitled "Depart in Peace" written by DeeAnn's first husband, Ken Galbreath.

For those 15 weeks when there is no formal music at Mayflower you can look forward to inspiring solos and ensembles we have grown accustomed to during our summer months. If you or someone you know would like to sign up for one of those Sundays, please let me know. God just keeps blessing us with the sound of music. Wow, wouldn't that make a great name for a movie?!

From Barb Fuller

Christian Education

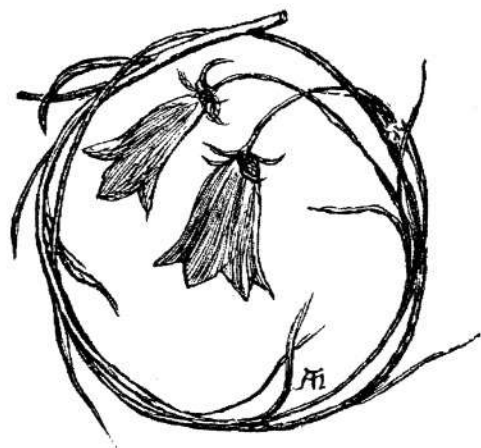
The rush of April has slowed and we are heading into May. This month, of course, is famous for Mother's Day. Through our Lunch and Learn studies, I have been blessed to have an opportunity to draw closer to an amazing group of women (sorry, guys, today is not your focus – I'll get to you later.) Hearing their stories and through the sharing we do when we talk about faith, sharpens my belief that we all 'mother' in some ways. Mother's Day is a day to celebrating mothering, yet I have been thinking a lot about the pain of mothering lately. Agreeing to mother someone means turning yourself over to that being – to spending nights worrying about them, to crying tears over their setbacks and sorrows, and to feeling the pain of knowing we can't force them to make different decisions. This is the part of mothering – of loving – that is so hard. We focus a lot of attention on the joys of motherhood, but I have had more than one person confide in me that they hadn't realized it was so hard; and more than one have admitted they're not sure they would have chosen to become a mother had they understood how hard it was. These statements usually come during the baby stage; by the time language comes, we are fully in the grip of those chubby, grubby little fists.

This Mother's Day, I'll be thinking especially of the mothers who mourn – those who have lost a child before it should have happened, no matter how old that child is. The grief of loss never leaves us – it may settle into the background and be hardly noticeable for a while, but it is always there. The more people I talk to, the more I find that lurking grief – a coworker showing me new tattoos and thereby revealing the loss of a child several years before; a friend who mentions the miscarriage a decade before that still haunts her. Mothering brings me a dim understanding of the love God feels for us – joyful in the creation, happy at watching the child grow, sick and terrified when we realize how fragile it all is. It truly is an incredible gift.



Liz Canfield

May



BIRTHDAYS

5/7 - *Linda Wheeler*
5/18 - *Roger Kennedy*
5/26 - *Bob Felter*

ANNIVERSARIES

5/4 - *Mike and Mary Rutledge*
5/25 - *Chad and Liz Canfield (14 years)*



Head Usher

Candy Bywater

Outreach Focus

Christian Services