

Mayflower Congregational Church



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Dr. Rick Martin
Pastor

April

Birthdays

4/1	Jan Holcomb
4-14	Liz Canfield
4/20	Eugene Potts
4/22	Meredith Kennedy
4/28	Rilla McHarris

Anniversaries

4/29	Mark and Lola Holmes
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HEAD USHER
Lois Ries

OUTREACH FOCUS
Food Bank





Are We There Yet?

Have you ever traveled any distance in a vehicle with children? Then you probably have heard more than once, "Are we there yet?" The obvious answer is "no", with the underlying thought of "don't ask me again in two minutes." God has 7 billion kids in the car.

In January, my voice stopped working. I thought it was laryngitis. However, after a couple of days it became obvious it was not. Thus trips to my doctor and meds with (bad) side-effects. "Are we there yet?" No.

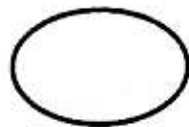
Then to a specialist, examinations and tests and meds with (horrible) side-effects. "Are we there yet?" No. Finally surgery. The problem was a paralyzed right vocal cord. The reason is still unknown; no medical reason for it. Surgery temporarily provides me with a speaking voice for about a year with the hopes that the nerve connecting the brain to the vocal cord will begin working again. "Are we there yet?" I really hope so, because the permanent surgery involves me talking to the doctor while he is placing something next to the vocal cord. Yuck!

Life is filled with many unexpected trials. What we do with that trial is totally up to us. We can follow the Lord Jesus through it [He is there with us, since He'll never leave us or forsake us Hebrews 13:5]. Joyfully would be best (James 1:2). Or we can allow the trial to trip us up, many a person has forsaken his/her walk with the Lord because it was too hard. Stepping stone or stumbling block. It's your choice. Choose well.

1 Peter 1:6-9

⁶In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. ⁷These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. ⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, ⁹for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

A hole is a nothing. Well, not necessarily.



In science, one model of anti-matter is that an anti-particle is a hole in the realm of normal matter, similar to the way a bubble in a glass of water is a hole in the water. That bubble can be thought of as an anti-drop of water, and a “normal” drop of water can fall into the hole — and be annihilated! Both the drop and the bubble simply disappear. Similarly, if a normal particle meets its corresponding anti-particle, it falls into the hole and both particle and anti-particle are annihilated. [The other popular model of anti-matter is even more bizarre: it implies that an anti-particle is a particle moving backward in time! But we’ll leave that for another time.]

Anti-matter holes have another important characteristic: They move counter — in the opposite direction — to ordinary matter. An anti-electron is known as a “positron,” and it acts pretty much like a normal electron, except it has a positive rather than a negative charge, and it moves in the opposite direction — if a current of electrons were moving north, a current of positrons would be moving south. And if any of the electrons met positrons, POOF!, they would be annihilated in miniature but powerful explosions. (Dan Brown, of *The Da Vinci Code* fame, uses this concept —incorrectly, it turns out — in his previous novel, *Angels & Demons*.) Thus, holes are far from being nothings, for they can be outright dangerous.

At the risk of stretching an analogy to its shattering point, this can be applied to people, even to church congregations. A do-nothing can be considerably more than a mere nothing — a do-nothing can be an active hole, moving counter to and possibly annihilating the deeds of others. In other words, a particle — or person — completely at rest is a scientific rarity, and is inherently unstable. If you aren’t active and trying to accomplish something positive with , anyway, you are deluding yourself. . You are in danger of becoming a hole.

Here at Mayflower we have been most fortunate in that we are overwhelmingly a buzzing assembly of “particles.” Let’s recruit more particles, and if we meet with holes, don’t confront them — you might get annihilated. Instead, prod them gently and indirectly from a cautious distance, and perhaps you can successfully turns them into productive particles. Don’t be a hole!

— Bill McHarris, Lay Leader

Mayflower Financial News

A profit of \$508.92 was made at our February 2nd Saturday Supper.

A brief summary of our finances as of February 28, 2015:

Income:	\$ 4,493.03
Expenses:	7,446.25
	- \$ 2,953.22

YTD for Two Months

Income:	\$ 10,119.66
Expenses:	14,124.34
	- \$ 4,004.68

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 12,097.41
Bequest Funds Savings	4,010.25
Memorial Fund CD	5,495.10
CD Savings	22,306.81
	\$ 43,909.57

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

Linda Wheeler
Treasurer



April 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Maundy Thursday Dinner 6:15 pm	2 Good Friday	3 Second Saturday Supper 5 pm
Easter Sunday's Food Collection Salvation Arm	6	7	8	9 Handbells 3:45 pm Choir 5:30 pm	10	11
12	13	14 Trustees Meeting 10:30 am	15 Deadline for Notes Articles	16 Handbells 3:45 pm Choir 5:30 pm	17	18
19 Prudential Council noon	20	21	22	23 Handbells 3:45 pm Choir 5:30 pm	24	25 Rummage Sale
26	27	28	29	30 Handbells 3:45 pm Choir 5:30 pm		

Christian Education



A burglar broke into a house one night. As he picked up a jar of coins in the kitchen, he heard a disembodied voice say, "Jesus is watching you."

He looked around, saw nothing, and took the coins. He then picked up a wallet, and again heard, "Jesus is watching you."

He looked around again, still saw nothing, so proceeded to head for the living room.

As he stepped in the living room, he saw a beautiful parrot in the corner. The parrot intoned, "Jesus is watching you."

Relieved, the burglar approached the parrot. "What's your name?" he said to the chatty bird.

"Moses," said the parrot.

"Moses?" questioned the burglar. "What kind of stupid people name a parrot Moses?"

The parrot answered, "The same ones who name a Rottweiler Jesus."

Admit it - you chuckled. It's not a good joke, but we all like the idea that a burglar who won't be stopped by his own conscience or fear of the Lord would receive his comeuppance from the threat of an attack dog with a religiously significant name. I spent a good hour reading a website of religious jokes, and aside from the sheer number connected to racy topics, there's a whole lot about the mixed ideas of God and ultimate justice. Obviously, we long for an ultimate vengeance - the idea of Jesus as a cosmic superhero, smiting those who wrong us, delivering ultimate payback. Rippling biceps, sparkling white teeth, maybe a high-powered weapon strapped on his back - Sylvester Stallone mixed with Stephen Segal and a hint of Hugh Jackman so there is witty banter before the smiting begins.

But I imagine if the real Jesus were lurking at the top of the staircase, instead of his Rottweiler namesake, He would come down the stairs with a soft smile, and engage the burglar in conversation to draw out what was wrong. The real Jesus would probably make the burglar a sandwich, insist on driving him home, and make plans to see the burglar the next week to help him get a better job. Jesus was just that kind of guy. He's a masculine mom, the ultimate nurturer wrapped up in strength and comfort.

We forget that Jesus is love. Jesus is sacrifice. Jesus is bigger than piggy banks, cell phones, or parrots. His love is a love so encompassing, so overwhelming, that there's no room for vengeance, or retribution, or any other of the lesser emotions we feel for possessions. Jesus doesn't want us plotting revenge in His name, or playing "My God is tougher than your God" with our friends. He wants us to follow Him, and love as He loved, to give as He gave. As His church celebrates His sacrifice and rebirth, we should remember the love that inspired it.

Liz

Holy Week Services

Our traditional Maundy Thursday Tenebrae Service will be held on April 2nd with a light soup supper beginning at 6:15 p.m. The Tenebrae Service will be held at 7:00 p.m. The choir will be singing Bill McHarris's composition "Tenebrae". The handbells will also accompany the service.

On Easter morning the choir will be accompanied by Jane Alexander, soprano, singing "Laudate Domino" to celebrate Easter at our regular 10:30 a.m. service. The handbell choir will perform the joyous "Now the Green Blade Riseth". It will be a beautiful, moving service, everyone is welcome.

Meredith and Roger will be hosting the after church coffee hour in gratitude for the prayers and support they received during their recent (and continuing) health issues.

Please join us along with friends and family for this time of celebration and fellowship!



Easter Church Stories

Baptisms: After Easter, the North and South ends of the church will be utilized. Children will be baptised at both ends.

Bible Study: Richard, my friend's little grandson came home from Sunday School and I asked him what they had studied. His reply was, 'Nothing.' So I asked him, 'Didn't you study Jesus?' Richard's reply was, 'No, he wasn't even there.'

Come work for the Lord. The work is hard, the hours are long and the pay is low. But the retirement benefits are out of this world.



Thrift Sale

We are having another thrift sale April 24 and 25 (Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.). Please check around your house now to identify good, saleable things that you have but don't really need any more. . . we all have so much "stuff"! Remember to have items clean and in working order or they don't sell well. Sometimes we have to throw things away--which we hate to do! If it's truly trash, just toss it out yourself. Kitchen items, jewelry, linens, books, and children's items are good sellers, but you never know what will sell. Remember, too, to invite friends, family, co-workers, etc., to donate items. We'll be glad to have them! Finally, be sure to plan on coming to shop yourself. You may find some treasures!

Plan to hold your stuff and bring it in any time after the Second Saturday Supper on April 11. We also need a lot of help to set up, run the sale, and clean up after the sale, so please mark your calendars now for that week. Set up will be 10-Noon (or so) on Monday-Thursday (April 20-23). See Ann or Lorraine to volunteer to help. And, full-size paper grocery bags are always needed for the bag sale time.



Music Notes

It has been a busy, wonderful time of music-making at Mayflower. The choir has been digging into some wide-ranging repertoire. Along the way, I have brought some challenges which they have accepted with good humor: I have subjected – okay, introduced – them to a few of my compositions and choral arrangements (*Amazing Grace*, *Dona Nobis Pacem*, and *Blue Boat Home*); and we have performed in both Greek (*Kyrie Eleison*) and Latin (*Laudate Dominum*) in the past month!

One of my own challenges, which I have thoroughly enjoyed, has been learning to ring hand bells. I was hired to lead both choirs, but Barb generously offered to continue directing the bells while I got my bearings in that new landscape. I have SO appreciated that gift, which has allowed me to focus my attention on learning rather than trying to lead. Lorraine, too, has been tremendously generous and patient as I rang next to her, bringing her considerable talents and experience to bear in mentoring me through this learning curve. Huge thanks to you both!

Rachel





What's happening in April...

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| 4/2 | Maundy Thursday |
| 4/3 | Good Friday |
| 4/5 | Easter Sunday |
| 4/5 | Food Collection for
Salvation Army |
| 4/11 | Second Saturday Supper |
| 4/14 | Trustees
Meeting 10:30 am |
| 4/15 | Deadline for Mayflower
Notes |
| 4/19 | Prudential Council -
noon |
| 4/24 | Rummage Sale |
| 4/25 | Rummage Sale |

