

Mayflower Congregational Church



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Dr. Rick Martin
Pastor



BIRTHDAYS

- 4/2 - Jan Holcomb**
- 4/5 - Lynette Smith**
- 4/6 - John Wilcox**
- 4/14 - Liz Canfield**
- 4/20 - Eugene Potts**
- 4/22 - Meredith Kennedy**
- 4/28 - Rilla McHarris**

ANNIVERSARY

- 4/29 - Mark and Lola Holmes**

HEAD USHER
Lois Ries

OUTREACH FOCUS
Missions



From the Pastor's Desk . . .



Another Step With Jesus

Spring! Love it! Nature is growing again, green is everywhere, it's warm; everything is new and refreshed and becoming alive again. We are a step closer to summer.

Our spiritual life tends to go through seasons also. Spiritual spring comes upon us, the Holy Spirit is making everything alive again, and we want to take a step closer to Jesus. We want to see spiritual growth. We hear the call to be more like God in our daily life. What can I do to take this next step? Here are some basics that will help you take a step closer to Jesus.

- 1) **Prayer.** Increase your prayer time. Add more listening time. Pray more often during your day.
- 2) **Bible reading/study.** Read more often (daily isn't too much) and spend some time thinking about how to apply that reading to your daily actions.
- 3) **Church.** Participate more. Be more involved.
- 4) **Extra-curricular activity.** Volunteer where you can benefit the lives of others.
- 5) **Obey.** Do whatever Jesus tells you to do. (*John 2:5*)

Unlike nature, which naturally comes to life each spring, spiritual spring doesn't happen automatically. But then, we don't have to wait for it, we can initiate a closer walk with God. Actually, respond; God initiated it by sending Jesus to the cross. Take another step closer – you'll love it.

James 4:8 - Come near to God and he will come near to you.

— Dr. Rick Martin, Pastor

Lay Leader's Message: TEMPTATION

While I was on vacation, I visited a church and heard this word. What a word. It has been with us, it seems, forever. Adam and Eve were tempted, and look what happened to them! Jesus was tempted by the devil in the wilderness. All through the Bible, people were tempted. Even now we have temptations, so many that we are bombarded with them on signs, radio, TV, etc. There is money, jewelry, grown-up toys, fancy clothes, foods, drugs, alcohol, and so the list goes. It seems like when you go on a diet, all you see on TV are food commercials, cooking shows, and eating contests. When the doctor says "no sweets," that's all you see in the stores. The dictionary meaning of temptation is the act of enticing, persuading, coaxing, and more. Remember the stories of the sirens that tempted the sailors? The 30 pieces of silver? And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil? I guess temptation is one of the many reasons we pray.

1 Corinthians 10:13 No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

—Ann McClelland, Lay Leader

Christian Education Report

April is here and our church year is winding up! It's all gone so fast.

Join us for a "lunch and learn" on Sunday, April 3, at Noon. We are continuing our study of Isaiah, focusing on Chapters 5 and 6, Israel's judgment leading to exile and the call to cleanse the nation. Each class is independent so missing one will not ruin your enjoyment of the next!

For our mission, we have scheduled a dinner preparation at the Ronald McDonald House on Monday, April 11. I need volunteers to help plan and shop for supplies, and people to meet after church on the 10th to prepare items ahead for the meal, and also people to go to the House on the 11th from 5-7:30 to cook, serve, and clean up the meal. Please let me know if you're interested! See me or call me at 749-2416.

—Liz Canfield, Christian Ed. Director

Mayflower Financial News

An Italian Dinner sponsored by the youth netted \$479 for the Mayflower Heat fund, which currently totals \$6,349.

A brief summary of our finances as of February 29, 2016:

Income:	\$ 5,545.04
Expenses:	<u>6,660.18</u>
	- \$ 1,115.14

YTD for Two Months:

Income:	\$ 16,919.76
Expenses:	<u>13,744.62</u>
	\$ 3,175.14

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 17,984.07
Bequest Funds Savings:	19,015.33
Memorial Fund CD:	5,497.26
CD Savings:	<u>22,313.41</u>
	\$ 64,810.07

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

— Linda Wheeler, Treasurer



Music Notes

As I was thinking about hymns associated with spring, “All Things Bright and Beautiful” came to mind. I started doing a little research about its origin and noticed that it has a traditional English melody, but the words are attributed to one of Great Britain’s finest women hymn writers, Cecil F. Alexander (1818-1895). She apparently wrote over 400 hymn texts, and most of them were intended to teach the gospel to children through music. In 1848, *Hymns for Little Children*, one of Mrs. Alexander’s many publications, sold over one million copies.

Spring is generally thought of as the season of hope. As the cold of winter begins to wane, we see new life popping up through the thawing ground, not unlike the new life God has promised us. Through the eyes of children (as well as being children of God), I think we can enjoy the words that Cecil Alexander put to that traditional English melody:

*All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.*

*Each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
He made their glowing colors, He made their tiny wings.*

*The purple-headed mountain, the river running by,
The sunset, and the morning that brightens up the sky.*

*The cold wind in the winter, the pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden, He made them every one.*

Happy spring, everyone!

— Barb Fuller, Music Director



An Easter Story

A holy man was having a conversation with the Lord one day and said, "Lord, I would like to know what Heaven and Hell are like." The Lord led the holy man to two doors. He opened one of the doors and the holy man looked in.

In the middle of the room was a large round table. In the middle of the table was a large pot of stew, which smelled delicious and made the holy man's mouth water.

The people sitting around the table were thin and sickly. They appeared to be famished. They were holding spoons with very long handles that were strapped to their arms and each found it possible to reach into the pot of stew and take a spoonful. But because the handle was longer than their arms, they could not get the spoons back into their mouths.

The holy man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering. The Lord said, "You have seen Hell."

They went to the next room and opened the door. It was exactly the same as the first one. There was the large round table with the large pot of stew which made the holy man's mouth water. The people were equipped with the same long-handled spoons, but here the people were well nourished and plump, laughing and talking.

The holy man said, "I don't understand." "It is simple," said the Lord. "It requires but one skill. You see, they have learned to feed each other, while the greedy think only of themselves."

"Remember this--when Jesus died on the cross, he was thinking of you."

HAPPY EASTER, EVERYONE!



Thrift Sale

We are having another thrift sale April 29 and 30 (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 9. Please take it to the library area. 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 25-28). See Ann or Lorraine to volunteer to help. And, full-size paper grocery bags are always needed for the bag sale time.

Please remember that ...

Mayflower Heat asks for your contribution, large or small, to the fund for buying a new furnace when that time comes. Remember, this repair would most likely happen in the very cold weather. Brrr...

The generous contributions raising the level of the thermometer includes \$479 that the youth earned from the recent Italian Dinner.

Thank you very much!

Rilla McHarris



What's happening in April:

- 4/9 Second Saturday Supper - 5 p.m.**
- 4/12 Trustees Meeting - 10:30 a.m.**
- 4/15 Deadline for Mayflower Notes**
- 4/17 Prudential Council - Noon**
- 4/25-28 Thrift Sale set-up - 10 a.m. to Noon**
- 4/29 Thrift Sale - 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.**
- 4/30 Thrift Sale - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**