

Mayflower Notes...



Mayflower Congregational Church

2901 W. Mt. Hope, Lansing, MI 48911

Telephone: 517-484-3139

Fax: 484-0525

Web site: www.mayflowerchurch.com

e-mail: info@mayflowerchurch.com



Dr. Rick Martin

Pastor

God or Genie?

By Pastor Rick Martin

Given the choice, most people would take the Genie (most men, a “I Believe in Genie” type genie). The thinking is “If I had someone to serve me and provide everything I want, then I would be happy.” However, life teaches us this is not true. At best, having everything we want and the way we want it brings momentary happiness; and not even momentary more times than not. The highest suicide rate has been and remains among the rich and famous.

Happiness, satisfaction, security and contentment – everyone wants these in their own life. God desires for us to have a “long, satisfied life” (Psalm 91). Against human logic, this life is not found by us doing our own thing and having what we want; it is found (only) in being the person God created us to be and faithfully serving Him. It sounds like an oxymoron; to be truly free is to be a slave to Christ (Romans 7 & 8). We were created by God to have fellowship with God and to serve Him. We will never be truly happy or satisfied or secure or content anywhere else.

God wants us to have our “wishes.” Jesus said, ***“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.”*** (John 15:7). He doesn’t want us to “wish” ourselves into destruction or to hurt others. As we faithfully serve Him – daily BE the person He created us to be & DO what He has called us to do – we put ourselves in a place to receive His blessings; which include happiness, satisfaction, security, contentment and “wishes.”

My prayer for you is that you will find the place of God’s blessing in your life. My “wish” is you will find it in faithfully serving God through Mayflower Congregational Church and in our church family.

Music Ministry

Chrisann Lowe

We are Blessed

We are blessed----

with melodies to cheer and comfort

with lyrics to sustain

with scripture to guide

with fellowship to uphold

with an opportunity to serve



But even the specifics do not measure the whole--The whole is far greater

What a joy it is to work with our beginning ringers and hear and even feel their accomplishment.

What beauty in the sound of voice and bells and bass on "I'd Rather Have Jesus." What love is known in the singing of psalms and hymns as God's people together.

We are blessed beyond our understanding with a God who loves us as we are--and who wants the best for us.

God is our sure foundation and our eagles' wings, our shepherd and our mighty rock.

We are surely blessed. Praise Be!

Stewardship Minute Message

By Ron Chewning, Stewardship Advisors

And Be Thankful

What have you had to give up in order to be a Christian? Have you lost any friends because you're a believer? What about your job? Are your children barred from getting an education because your family goes to church regularly? Have your parents disowned you because you follow Christ?

A wealthy native of India came to faith in Christ. Almost immediately after becoming a Christian, all that he owned was taken from him and his wife and children would no longer have anything to do with him. He was asked how he could bear these losses. He replied that many people had asked him that question but that none had asked how he could bear his joys.

Certainly, this man found his joy in Christ and found reason to be thankful. Those who belong to Christ always have a reason for gratitude, for, with Christ, we have everything while, apart from Him, we are destitute.

The Apostle Paul talks about the attitude we should have “*as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved.*” He counsels us to be compassionate and humble, to be kind and patient, and to forgive others as we have been forgiven. He tells us to let Christ’s peace reign in our hearts “*and [to] be thankful*” (Colossians 3:12-15).

Too often, when we pray we put an agenda before God. We tell Him what we want Him to take care of: find that person a job, heal that other person, solve our money problems, and keep our kids safe. We add our thanks as an afterthought. Try spending your whole prayer time offering thanks. We can even thank God for the adversity He sends into our lives for, as believers, we know that He uses all things for His glory and our good (Romans 8:28). In fact, the Bible tells us, “*Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus*” (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

We especially, as God’s stewards, should not take for granted the blessings God pours out on us. As His stewards, we acknowledge that all we are and have are His gifts to us. And, as His stewards, we humbly and joyfully give Him thanks.



April 2010

	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 Maundy Thursday service 7:30	2 Good Friday	3
4 Easter	5 Quiet worship time 6:30 p.m.	6	7 Beginning bells 6:00 p.m. Handbells 6:30 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m.	8 Trustees 7 p.m.	9	10 2nd Saturday supper
11 Communion	12 Quiet worship time 6:30 p.m.	13	14 Beginning bells 6:00 p.m. Handbells 6:30 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m.	15	16	17
18 Prudential Council 12 noon	19 Quiet worship time 6:30 p.m.	20	21 Beginning bells 6:00 p.m. Handbells 6:30 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m.	22	23	24
25	26 Quiet worship time 6:30 p.m.	27	28 Beginning bells 6:00 p.m. Handbells 6:30 p.m. Choir 7:30 p.m.	29	30	Note: the first of May is Yard Cleanup Day



Christian Education

Although April showers may bring May flowers, it seems to me that first they bring LOTS of mud! And somewhere in the depths of my brain right now, I'm trying to figure out how the kids can wallow in the mud and what lesson I can get out of it!

The Easter season is almost over, and we are beginning to see the end of the Sunday School year looming in the distance. The kids have been singing a lot lately - we had performances on March 21th and 28th, and will sing again on April 11th. Music has been an important part of our worship this year, and I am grateful to Mrs. Lowe for keeping the interest level in music high. Competing with the post-church cookies isn't easy for anyone, and Chrisann does it well.

In keeping with our harmonious relationship, Music Recognition Sunday, Sunday School Recognition, and the annual Church Picnic will all be held on Sunday, May 23rd. Mark your calendars now!

Ann, Linda, and I will be offering a summer program for the kids again this year. We'll be focusing more on fun and less on structured lessons, so plan on bringing lots of overnight friends, or grandchildren who come for a visit! Thank you all for your support of our endeavors - we couldn't do it without you.

Liz

From the Lay Leader

It's always good to learn something new. What I learned just recently is that Mayflower Church has a First Aid kit. Am I the only one who didn't know that? I asked Dean early one Sunday morning if he knew of any band aids in the building, and he said there might be some in the First Aid kit, which is how I learned about it. In case you don't already know, I will pass on the information: It is a soft-sided blue zipper bag about the size of a lunch bag in the downstairs kitchen!

Another piece of information that came my way this month is in regard to income tax. If any of you are as late as I am this year, you might like to know that there is a new law, passed after the IRS forms were already printed, that will let people deduct contributions for Haitian relief on this year's tax return instead of waiting for next year. The contribution should have been made between January 11 and March 1, which includes our mission month.

And finally, here's something that is not new; it's a kindergarten joke I always think of at this time of year: If April showers bring May flowers, what do Mayflowers bring? And as we all know, the answer is Pilgrims.

Rilla McHarris

Maundy Thursday Service: a thoughtful, inspirational time

Maundy Thursday is on April 1 - that's this coming week. Maundy Thursday Service will begin at 6:15 p.m., with a bread and soup supper. At 7 p.m., the service will continue with meditation, Communion, scripture readings, and music.

From an article by author Margaret Atwood

While visiting in the Arctic, I had been told a number of things about Inuit Elders. First, you can't become an Elder just by getting old; it's a title bestowed by others. You never push your advice, but you offer it if asked. When an Elder speaks, people listen. But Elders don't speak often. An Elder knows what to do in times of difficulty. Elders acquired that knowledge by having endured hard times before. As one of our old sayings puts it, "Good judgment comes from experience. Experience comes from bad judgment."

Many people feel we're living through a crisis now. The Young, especially those who have known only the affluent times of recent years - have been shocked by the global recession. They were fed a number of accepted truths that turned bottom side up overnight: that spending was always a good thing to do, that a house would always increase in value, that the rich and powerful always knew what they were doing. Not so, it seems, nor is the present situation unprecedented, but those under 35 have never lived through anything like it. Perhaps it's time for our own Elders (our Wisdom Keepers) to share their experience with younger generations who want to know - and also need to know - how to deal with hard times: "This is how you stretch a dollar, serve a leftover, turn a collar," they might say. Or, "The important things in life aren't things." Or, "Keep your nerve. Don't panic. The only way out is through." Or, "Hanging your clothes to dry doesn't cost a cent." Or, "We" is a more powerful word than "I." Or, "The human race has been through the bottleneck before." Or even a simple, "We can do this." You've got your own list? Time to share it - though, like a true Elder, only when asked.

April Birthdays

4/6 - John Wilcox

4/14 - Arlene Terryah

4/14 - Liz Canfield

4/20 - Eugene Potts

4/22 - Meredith Kennedy

April Anniversaries

4/18 - John & Doris Wilcox

4/29 - Mark & Lola Holmes

