

Mayflower Congregational Church



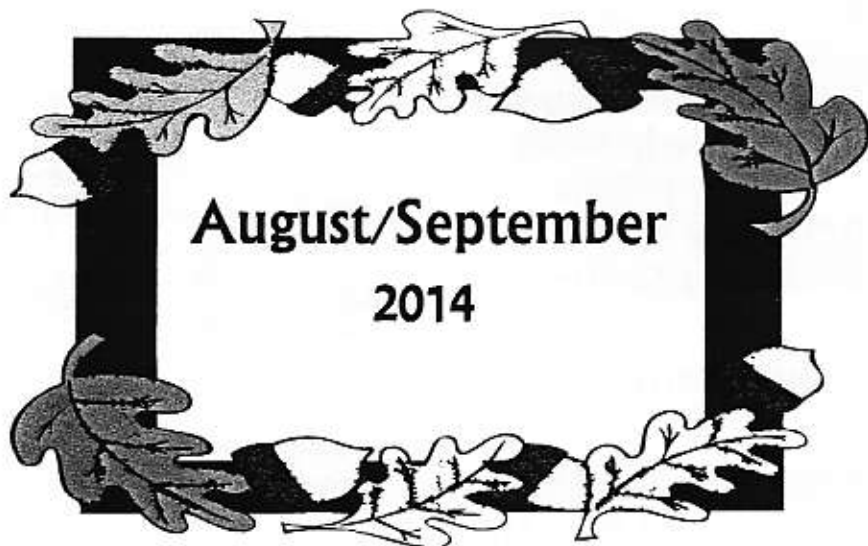
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Dr. Rick Martin

Pastor

August - September

Birthdays



8/4 Jaclyn (Holmes) Thbaben
8/9 Kim Finison
8/12 Ryan Graham
8/17 Megan (Holmes) Faulkner
8/20 Jerry Fuller
8/21 Sharon Graham
8/26 Sue Emrick

9/12 Bill McHarris
9/12 Kimberly Strong
9/20 Terry Graham
9/21 Mary Rutledge
9/25 Laura Stebbins



Anniversaries

8/24 Terry and Sharon Graham
8/27 Bill and Rilla McHarris
8/27 Eugene and Shirley Potts
8/27 Dick and Linda Williams

9/5 Bob and Sue Mott
9/21 Frank and Linda Wheeler
9/26 Dick and Nancy McKay (60 years)

Head Usher

Lois Ries

From The Pastor's Desk

Bring a Friend – Invite an Acquaintance

Summer is coming to an end (boo). College students have returned, high school sports is in full swing, football is back on television – and I'm writing this the first part of August! It is also the time the church world gets back into the swing of things. Rally Sunday is September 7th, kicking off the vocal and bell choirs season, Sunday school and inviting people to Mayflower Church.

Here is a word that scares many Christians: “evangelism”. To some it is like, “Do I have to find some complicated evangelism program, study, attend classes, memorize the Bible, etc?” No. Just invite a friend, “Hey, Mayflower Church is having Rally Sunday on the 7th. Want to come with me?”

Did you know, with all the special programs, revival meetings, city-wide crusades, Billy .Graham type meetings, that more people come to church and Christ by personal invitation than all the other ways combined? True – always has been. A personal invitation is most effective. Bring a friend. Invite an acquaintance. Invite a lot of people – someone will come. Your personal invitation could have a great affect on someone. It did with Andrew's brother.

John 1:40-42

Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ). And he brought him to Jesus.

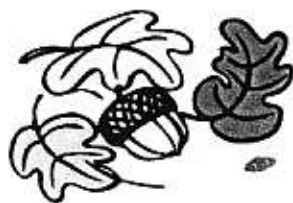


From the Lay Leader

It has been said before that the generosity of Mayflower people is amazing. At the beginning of this year, the Board of Trustees published a list of needed repairs (Rain, Rain Go Away campaign) that are not covered by the annual budget. As of June 30th nearly all of the money for those projects has been raised! In fact, some additional money that recently came in will go toward repairs and upgrades to the sound system, which is desperately needed and not on the Trustee's list.

We are truly blessed to be involved in such a community of faithful, caring and giving people. The turnout at the May 31st work day was a good example. There were over a dozen people present, including several members from Word of Life Church that donated their time and efforts to help beautify the property. Others give by writing letters and calling on shut-ins, praying for people in and outside the church, preparing meals, serving at the social hour, working at rummage sales, Second Saturday Suppers, newsletter, bulletin, Prudential Council, music program, the list goes on and on.

An outsider might wonder how this little church keeps going. But once inside, they know. It's made up of loving people that care about each other and deeply support the work of the Church. God's love is manifested in this small but mighty fellowship of believers.



Jerry Fuller
Lay Leader

For those of you wanting to plan an event, we are making it easier for you by having an event planning form. You can pick one up in the office, fill it out within 2 months in advance, and hand it back in to Cozette. If you wish assistance, you can call Cozette or me (Ann) and we will be glad to help.

Ann McClelland



It is a Good Thing September 2014

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do. Ephesians 2:10 NIV

Now we know that not everyone can do everything, as their body and spirit allows. There are times and seasons for different activities, and many different ways of contributing to God's good works. Remember that prayer is an action verb. We can always pray.

The chicken dinners are coming; we do put on a fresh, homemade dinner. There is the ongoing lap robe ministry. That could be done by sewing as well. Perhaps some cozy flannel would make up nicely. I just heard about giving teddy bears to the Lansing Police Department. Whenever they have to remove children from a home they have a teddy bear for each child to try to comfort them. What a kind idea. And our mitten, scarves and hats are helpful every year.

Do you participate in another ministry that you might want us to know about? Our neighbor Barb Rich told us about the city gardens that she helps with.

If God has prepared us in advance to do a certain work, surely our hearts will lean in that direction. Also, we humans are quite capable; we might have to keep working at a problem or an action to solve it.

Mayflower Handbells and Choir begin rehearsal on September 4. Bells at 5:45.

God bless our many ministries, and God bless us every one.

Chtisann Lowe

Announcement:

The annual Rally Day picnic is scheduled for Sunday, September 7th. The church will provide the main dish and beverages. Please bring a dish to pass and your own plates, cups, and silverware. A sign-up sheet for items to bring is hanging on the white board outside the office.

Plan on starting another church year off with food, fun, and fellowship!



From the Trustees

By now you have probably noticed that the roofers have been at Mayflower to patch the Pastor's roof and to attach the copper splash guard to the gutter along the sanctuary roof. The asphalt man has patched the parking lot, and of course we have a new lawnmower shed. These are all the things for which we raised money earlier this summer, and we thank you very, very much for your generous donations. Our beautiful building is good to keep on going.

Event Planning

Communication is sometimes a hard tool to use. With some miscommunication going on in the area of fundraisers and other events, we have to come up with a solution that we hope will work for everyone. If you are thinking of an event you would like to hold, go into the church office and get an event planning sheet to fill it out two months in advance.. Cozette and I will help by checking to see

Welcome to fall! It's hard to believe school is starting and another May-flower year begins. Time is passing very quickly. Our oldest, Grace, is starting her senior year of high school, and all three girls are in high school now. The fast approaching changes to our roles as parents has Chad and I excited but nervous. As we define ourselves for so long as "Mom and Dad" it is difficult to see those roles become more ceremonial and less active. I understand how the Queen of England feels!

We were driving home after going out for dinner this week, and we began talking about how various family members treat Nero the Wonder Dog. I am firmly in the camp that he is incredible, although as I type this I can hear him drinking from the toilet, which does strain my argument a little. My husband loves to bluster about how Nero is the worst dog ever, which means he has lost a few battles with Stubborn Dog and he doesn't like it. We began teasing Chad about a possible Heaven, where you appear at the gates and discover God in the form of a pet you'd had, and how God (in the form of Nero) would roll out an enormous scroll of Chad's sins as a pet owner.

We all had a good laugh, but the concept has lingered with me. In Greek mythology, the gods frequently walked the earth in the guise of people and animals, evaluating and testing the people. How would I stand up in an encounter with God? I hope that I would rise to the occasion, but I fear there are certainly times when I have been less than exemplary – where my impatience has shown past my mask of tolerance, where frustration has sharpened the edge of my tone, where I have reacted as less than the person I want to be. My life is made of thousands of minutes where I have been less than the person God wants me to be.

The beauty of Christianity is that I know I am forgiven – that God loves me and accepts me whether I am at my peak or dwelling in the valley of my humanity. That gift requires us to provide an equal one – to try, every day, to be worthy of the sacrifice of Christ. I can't undo the wrongs I did yesterday, but I can make today better. I know my faults won't disappear, but I can remember every day where they lurk and work to keep them from appearing. I can extend the love Christ has shown me to everyone, from the mightiest king to the humblest servant, even down to a stubborn old dog. But just in case – Nero, I swear, I didn't mean to leave you out in the rain! Forgive me?

Mayflower Financial News

Our last major maintenance project was completed in July. The parking lot had large cracks that were filled and other areas that required putting in new asphalt. Total cost for the project was \$3200. This cost was included in the "Rain Keeps Falling on My Head" campaign to raise money for roof repair in the pastor's office, adding a backsplash to the gutters on the east side of the Sanctuary (to prevent flooding in the east side of the basement) and replacing the shed door. The goal of \$5051 for these repairs was reached.

A brief summary of our finances as of July 31, 2014:

Income:	\$ 6,240.00
Expenses:	10,783.32
	- \$ 4,543.32

YTD for Seven Months

Income:	\$ 56,697.22
Expenses:	59,126.00
	- \$ 2,428.78

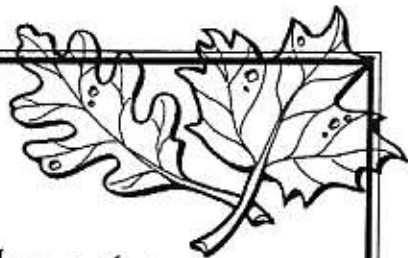
Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 10,429.35
Bequest Funds Savings	4,009.64
Memorial Fund CD	5,494.01
CD Savings	22,303.51
	\$ 42,236.51

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

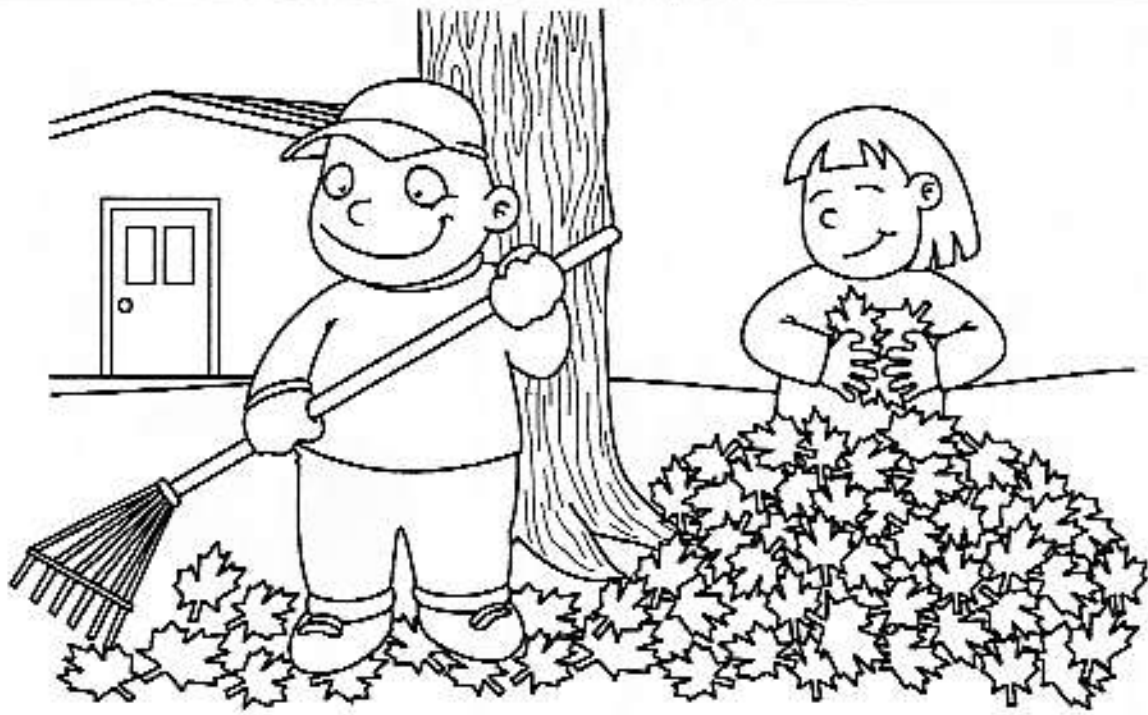
Linda Wheeler
Treasurer





Dates to remember in September...

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| 9/1 | Labor Day, office closed |
| 9/4 | CROP Meeting at First Presbyterian |
| 9/7 | Rally Sunday
Food for Salvation Army |
| 9/9 | Trustees Meeting
10 am |
| 9/13 | Second Saturday Supper |
| 9/15 | Deadline for Mayflower Notes |
| 9/23 | Prudential Council at noon |



MONTH of SEPTEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Labor Day- Office closed	2	3	4 Handbells 5:50 Choir 7:30 CROP Meeting 7:00	5	6
7 Rally Day & picnic Food for Salvation Army	8	9 Trustee's Meeting 10 am	10	11 Handbells 5:50 Choir 7:30	12	13 Second Saturday Supper 5 pm
14	15 Deadline for Mayflower Notes	16	17	18 Handbells 5:50 Choir 7:30	19	20
21 Prudential Council 12 pm	22	23	24	25 Handbells 5:50 Choir 7:30	26	27
28	29	30				