

Mayflower Notes...



Mayflower Congregational Church

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December

2012

Children's Pageant

December 23rd, 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Service

Refreshments following the service

7:00 p.m.

Dr. Rick Martin

Pastor

Dates to remember in December..

12/2 - First Sunday of Advent

12/2 - Communion

12/8 - 2nd Saturday Supper - 5:00 p.m.

12/9 - Last day to order your Christmas Poinsettia's

12/11 - Trustees - 1:15 p.m.

12/15 - Deadline for January Mayflower Notes

12/16 - Children's Sunday



12/23 - Prudential Council - Noon

12/24 - Service of Lessons and Carols - 7:00 p.m.

12/25 - Christmas Day - Happy Birthday Jesus!

12/30 - Advent House Lunches

Luke 2:11

for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

Happy Birthday Jesus! (What am I giving Jesus this year)?



Lay Leader's Message

Birth – the beginning of everything living, and the beginning of many things other than living beings. In Jesus' birth, we see the birth of a child sent to us as the son of God. This birth fulfilled the prophecies of old and brought a divine plan closer to completion. For us, the birth of this holy child signifies the beginning of hope...hope for each day that we are here and hope for things to come after we have departed. Hope is the crucial element that our human lives must hold; hope that we can strive to be like Jesus and hope that we can make each day a reflection of His will for us. The lowly birth and subsequent life of Jesus brings into perspective the hope that we have been given for each new day.

Fred Lowe/Lay Leader

Music Musings

As far as my eye can see, from this moment until at least December 26th, I need to be clean, organized, and putting one foot in front of the other. And looking ahead. And practicing. And not letting the plants die. But there needs to be something else going on as well: How can I help? What would be a good gesture, here and anywhere?

I make Fred park further back (he doesn't want to), but I can do better. We are going to find a day to drive in to see the nephew's hockey—that is positive for him, and he needs motivating love at this time.

These six weeks won't make or break us, or will they? Don't stay too long on that TV news; they just need the ratings.

Take time to be with God; meditate and pray, and believe that we and the world can change for the better. Christ came to teach us; start with now. Amen.

The Servant King (From Heaven You Came)

Music by Graham Kendrick, words from Philippians 2:4-8; Matthew 26:39; Isaiah 53:7; Ephesians 6:7

From heaven You came, helpless Babe,

Entered our world, Your glory veiled;

Not to be served, but to serve, And give Your life that we might live.

Meet Gordon Wilson

Gordon is originally from Eaton Rapids, and graduated from Eaton Rapids High School. He worked at Oldsmobile and attended Lansing Community College for two semesters. Gordon joined the US Army and served as an artillery gunner and section chief. He spent eight months in Vietnam. Gordon was honorably discharged and came back to Michigan to attend college on the GI Bill at Michigan State University. He married in 1976 and had his first child that same year. Gordon started working at USPS and stayed for 29 years. He retired in 2003. He has a Masters Degree in Labor and Industrial Relations in 1989. He has 3 children.

He loves MSU football, basketball and hockey games. Gordon is presently retired. He loves blues, classic rock and is beginning to enjoy jazz and ragtime. He has his own blues website that he created and maintains. Gordon is also very interested in photography.

Gordon met Rick Martin about 24 years ago when he was the minister at Five Corners Church in Charlotte. He claims that Rick is very knowledgeable and down to earth.

We are happy to have Gordon as a new member of our church!





Mayflower Financial News

Our November Rummage Sale has made over \$1400 so far. There are still a couple small tables set up with books and other items for sale in the fellowship hall. The final results will be included in next month's report

A brief summary for the month of:

October	Income	\$ 6,359.99
	Expenses	<u>6,184.36</u>
		\$ 175.63
YTD	Income	\$ 76,513.37
	Expenses	<u>71,257.17</u>
		\$ 5,256.20
Fund Balances:		
Checking:		\$ 16,198.94
Bequest Funds Savings		4,007.25
Memorial Fund CD		5,485.89
12 Month CD		<u>22,291.96</u>
		\$ 47,984.04

A more detailed report is available in the church's brochure rack

Where's Mary?

A ninety-five year old woman from the nursing home received a visit from a fellow church member.

'How are you feeling Mary?' the visitor asked.

'Oh', said the lady, 'I'm just worried sick!'

'What are you worried about dear?' her friend asked. 'You look like you're in good health. They're taking care of you, aren't they?'

'Yes, they are taking very good care of me.'

'Are you in any pain?' she asked.

'No, I have never had a pain in my life.'

'Well, what are you worried about?' her friend asked again.

Mary leaned back in her rocking chair and slowly explained her major worry. 'Every close friend I ever had has already died and gone to heaven. I'm afraid they are all wondering where I went.'



We are gearing up for the annual Christmas pageant, which will be held on December 23rd during our Sunday Service. Meanwhile, our Mitten Tree can always use decoration!

Have a blessed Advent Season - Liz

The Seward family is trying to raise \$1,000 for their radio station in Mali. The Prudential Council would like to invite the Mayflower to support "Merry Christmas to Mali" by a few fundraising opportunities:

On December 16th, there will be a holiday luncheon after church with a free-will offering dedicated to the radio station. Enjoy a good meal, help set up the crèche, and share some secular caroling with those of us who don't sing as nicely as the choir! Santa hats optional.

On December 23rd, the kids will be hosting a bake sale. Pick up some last minute goodies to fill out your holiday gifts!

On December 30th, there will be another luncheon. Watch your bulletins for more information.

The Swards are a wonderful example of the good people can do working together to spread Christ's message. Let's help them reach their goal of bringing hope to an area of the world that struggles with war, poverty, and hunger. Liz



From The Pastor's Desk

Since the Christmas TV commercials started in October this year, it seems like it has been a long Christmas season already – nearly skipping Thanksgiving Day altogether. Lights and decorations and celebrating and office parties and school plays and concerts and shopping – shopping – shopping. Buy me this. I want that. Sales! Sales! Sales! (I love the stores that have on the receipt “you saved this much” – no, I spent this much).

In between stores I stop and think, “Whose birthday are we celebrating? If it is Jesus’ birthday, why am I expecting presents? Shouldn’t Jesus be receiving presents on His birthday? What I am getting Jesus for His birthday this year?” Then I go into the next store and buy more stuff for more people who are not Jesus. Ah, the Christmas spirit.

I encourage you to enjoy Christmas. Enjoy the decorations, eat chocolate at the office party, hear a concert, and I hope you get everything you want for Christmas. But somewhere in the midst of it all, take a moment and remember why we celebrate Christmas – Jesus is the reason for the season. God loves YOU so much that He sent Jesus to come to earth and be the sacrifice for YOUR sins. We were lost and undone and without hope – so Jesus came to be our hope and Savior. We have a lot to celebrate indeed.

December Birthdays

12/8 Carleen Brammel

12/9 Mike Graham

12/22 Remington Graham (1)

Head Usher

Naida Kenyon

Outreach Focus

Lansing Churches' Food Drop

The Mitten Tree

