

# Mayflower Notes...



## *Mayflower Congregational Church*

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**Dr. Rick Martin**

**Pastor**

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*Dates to remember in  
December...*

December 1

*First Sunday of Advent*

December 7

*Decorating for Advent  
10 a.m.*

December 14

*Second Saturday Supper*

December 15

*Last Day for Poinsettia  
Orders  
Deadline for Mayflower  
Notes  
Christmas Pageant*

December 22

*Carol Sing after church*

December 24

*Christmas Eve Service  
7 p.m.*

December 25

*Christmas Day*

December 29

*Advent House Lunches*

December 31

*New Year's Eve*



## Mayflower Notes for December 2013

### From The Pastor's Desk

#### Merry Christmas



I am sure Christmas brings many different thoughts to each of us. Among them are good memories, bad memories, happy memories, sad memories; some memories we hope we won't forget, others we wish we could. Christmas brings busy times, crowded times, party times, family times, school events, family events, church events and community events.

No wonder we are worn out come January 1<sup>st</sup>! There are a lot of "extras" going on during this time of the year – some of it we love and some of it we endure. All in the name of the celebration of the birth of Christ. However, two millenniums ago, the birth of Christ went unnoticed by all but a few.

Luke 2:10-14 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people; for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased."

Even today, in the midst of all the busyness of Christmas, the birth of Christ may go unnoticed. The reason for the season is not presents, food, partying, family get-togethers and special events. Jesus is the reason for the season! It is in honor of His birth – thus God's visual demonstration of His love for us while we (mankind) were yet sinners and enemies of God. We see God's love *wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger*; to live as a man, to die as a sacrificial lamb, to be *for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord*.

In the midst of all the fun and celebration and traditions of Christmas, as your pastor I encourage you to also make time to reflect upon the reason for our celebration. Take time to read the Christmas story (the real one) in Matthew 1:18-25 and Luke 2:1-20. Makes plans to attend Mayflower's Christmas Eve service and other special Christmas events around town, in addition to our Advent Sunday services. It is good to remember God's gift of love *wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger* along with all the fun and traditions of the season. As we hear Santa shouting, "Merry Christmas to all, and to all a good night" we can also remember that Jesus is the Reason for the Season.

My prayer for you is that you will have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## HERE COME THE HOLIDAYS OF 2013!

We are so blessed at Mayflower Church to celebrate the many wonderful traditions during this special Holiday Season.....Missions, Salvation Army Collections, Walter Ellis Harvest Festival, Shoebox Gifts, Mitten Tree, Advent House Luncheons and the Children's Christmas Pageant just to name a few. With God's blessing, our Mayflower family will again this year celebrate together and welcome the Christ Child again into our hearts!

As we go about our daily routines this Holiday Season, let us all remember that God himself gave us the ultimate gift of the season, the Christ Child.....JESUS!!!!

Thanks be to GOD! Amen.

Terry Graham



Another holiday season is fast approaching. As this will be my last pageant with Morgan, I am feeling slightly nostalgic. Time goes so fast!

The Shoebox project was another enormous success for Mayflower. As I write, I have purchased enough to make 40 shoeboxes, and I know that others have taken boxes home to do themselves! It is so wonderful to feel God's love flowing through our small but enormously generous church!

The Christmas pageant is set for December 15th. I always have room for extra angels, shepherds, or animals – but I need to know! Please contact me ASAP if you know a child interested in participating. Practice is during Sunday School in the month of December, and there will be a dress rehearsal the Saturday before the pageant.

I ask you to join me in remembering those who are less fortunate this holiday season. Whether their troubles are financial, emotional, or medical, they are all around us. Be kind, because you never know who you are impacting.

Merry Christmas.

Liz



## Mayflower Financial News

The October 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday Supper was successful with a profit of \$510.22. The Fall Iron Egg Weightlifting event netted 596.12. The Fall Rummage Sale has brought in over \$900.

A brief summary of our finances for the month of October:

Income:	\$ 9,677.09
Expenses:	<u>6,030.25</u>
	\$ 3,646.84
Year to Date:	
Income:	\$ 72,312.19
Expenses:	<u>76,208.33</u>
	- \$ 3,896.14
Fund Balances:	
Checking:	\$13,429.55
Bequest Funds Savings	4,008.74
Memorial Fund CD	5,491.30
CD Savings	<u>22,298.56</u>
	\$45,228.15

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

**The Prudential Council is considering  
(for a variety of reasons) going  
from celebrating communion monthly  
to quarterly. We would love to have  
your opinions/concerns about  
this idea.**

**Please contact Pastor Rick**





## *From the Music Department....*

You are invited to hear and sing many beautiful songs of the season in December. We will be having mini-hymn sings in service to allow for more Christmas Carol singing. Also, at the December 22 coffee hour we will bring out the hymn sheets to continue the good spirit.

The Handbells will play December 8 & 15 and at Christmas Eve. They have an expressive "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence" and a lively rendition of "God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen."

The Choir will be joined by a cellist on December 8 on a new piece, "O Come, Redeemer of the Earth." On the 15<sup>th</sup> we will sing Mary's Little Boy Child with a Calypso rhythm. The Drama department will present on December 15, when a man invited to a Christmas Eve service takes offence, but then...

Christmas Eve will range from older to newer anthems, with the women on Max Reger's "Virgin's Slumber Song," and the choir on the rhythmic "Comfort, Comfort Ye My People," and a very new, rather haunting piece, "The Darkest Midnight in December" by Stephen Main.

Please join us for a rich and blessed Christmas season.

*Chrisann*



The Christmas Eve service begins at 7 p.m. Please bring your family to enjoy this special service and musical offerings.

# December



## Birthdays

- 12/8 Carleen Brammell  
12/9 Mike Graham  
12/22 Remington Graham



## Head Ushers

Naida Kenyon  
Lois Ries

## Outreach Focus

The Mitten Tree

