

Mayflower Congregational Church



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Dr. Rick Martin

Pastor

December



Birthdays

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



Head Ushers

Lois Ries

Outreach Focus

Mitten Tree

CHRISTMAS 2014

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. Plus the whole expense of Christmas, but we'll not get into that here.

No wonder we are worn out come January 1st! 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.

Lay Leader's Message

In a sermon I once heard at Mayflower, the pastor made reference to a bad cut that had finally healed. The healing process was long and painful. The cut was a constant reminder of the cause and what could have been done to avoid it. But, when it finally healed, the scar tissue made a band of skin that was even tougher than that area of skin before the cut. The body's amazing healing process makes sure that if a blow to that area occurs again, it will be less likely to cause a serious injury.

Our resolve at Mayflower has been tested again. It is a painful process to work through. Some of us feel that certain things could have been handled in a more sensitive and loving manner. Maybe that is true. If so, I hope that forgiveness will be granted so that we can move on in friendship and love. Through this process hopefully we can create a bond in our fellowship that is even stronger than what we had previously.



Missions and Holiday Happenings

As we continue our mission outreach and holiday giving here are some Mayflower happenings that you will want to be aware of. The mitten tree is up this week for your donations of mittens, scarves, gloves and hats to be given to Lewton School (student's ages 10, 11, and 12). If you wish, shopping will be done for you.

Blanche's Hobo Dinner will be on December 7th after church. There will be caroling afterwards. The cost is \$7.

Our traditional Christmas Eve Service will take place at 7:00 p.m. This will once again be a wonderful service of words, reflections and inspirational music. The offering will once again go to the Salvation Army. There will be a reception and time of fellowship immediately following the service in the Social Hall. Please bring a favorite snack to share.

Poinsettias in honor or memory of someone or an event are again available to enhance the sanctuary. The cost is \$10 contact Cozette to sign up.

Please plan to participate as much as possible as we celebrate Jesus's birth.

REJOICE!!!



Mayflower Financial News

Our October 2nd Saturday Supper was a huge success with 105 persons being served which resulted in a profit of \$665.08. To date we have received \$4743 in donations towards the cost of \$5500 needed to improve and upgrade our sound system. Our rummage sale was our best ever with almost \$1900 in profit so far. And the Iron Egg Fall Classic made \$1546.25. I'm amazed at all Mayflower can accomplish with the help and support of our congregation.

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

Income:	\$ 10,857.95
Expenses:	7,395.08
	\$ 3,462.87

YTD for Ten Months

Income:	\$ 80,071.64
Expenses:	78,764.47
	\$ 1,307.17

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 14,163.45
Bequest Funds Savings	4,009.84
Memorial Fund CD	5,494.01
CD Savings	22,305.16
	\$ 45,972.46

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

Linda Wheeler
Treasurer



Christian Education Moment

I remember being a child, seeing a bright light streak across the sky.

"Make a wish!" someone would say, and I would close my eyes and completely panic. What was good enough to match the rarity of a falling star? As a parent, I was mortified to find out most of the time my child was wishing on a travelling satellite instead (astronomy is not my strong point!)

Watching the stars is as old as time. In Biblical times, the Jews watched and wished and waited for the Messiah to come, for he had been promised by the prophets of old. When the star did appear over the manger in Bethlehem, it was a sign that was noticed by the shepherds and wise men., but missed by many others. Today, in our busy modern lives, are we missing the star ourselves? In Revelations 22:16, it is said, "I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star." As we move through our busy holiday season, remember to always make time for the stars that matter.

I am pleased to announce that several Mayflower members have agreed to perform our adult pageant on Sunday, December 21st. It is tentatively titled, "And So This is Christmas" and hopefully you will enjoy it. See you in church!

Liz

Recipe for Apple Goody fram Ann McClelland

1 pkg. sugar free Butterscotch pudding
1 10 oz. can crushed pineapple in water
8 oz. Lofat Cool Whip
3 cups Apples, chopped
1 cup miniature marshmallows

Mix all ingredients together and refrigerate.



O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever; His kingdom will never end. (Luke 1:32, 33)

We begin to prepare for the celebration of our Lord's birth four Sundays before Christmas Day. This is known as the season of Advent, and it begins with the Old Testament prophecies regarding the coming of a Messiah anticipated and spoken about 600 years before it happened.

"O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" was originally used in the medieval church liturgy as a series of short musical statements called antiphons that were sung the week before Christmas Eve. Each of these antiphons focused on the anticipation of the Messiah according to how the Old Testament referred to him: Wisdom, Emmanuel, The Lord of Might, The Rod of Jesse, Day Spring, and The Key of David.

The tune for the verses comes from an ancient origin, as well — that of the Chant or Plain Song.

The next time you are near a hymnal take time to read through the words of this song. They tell an important story of the anticipation of Christ's birth; they are rich in the history that brings us to recognize the season of Advent. They explain why we, as Christians, celebrate Christmas. They are profound.

Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

Barb



Thrift Sale

Thanks to all who donated items for the thrift sale and/or worked in bring stuff from Barb's uncle's house, setting up, selling, and cleaning up the sale! Proceeds will go to the church's general fund, at least initially. Our total receipts from the sale at this point are about \$1850, but there will be additional funds coming in from items that have been taken to the consignment shop and from furniture we will be selling online.

We plan to continue having sales as we have been, so start saving up your items NOW for the spring sale! A good way to do it is to have a box or bag in a closet or a corner of your basement or garage, and as you see things you don't need or want any more, put them in the box or bag. Then you'll be ahead of the game when the time comes!

Dates to remember in
December...

12/9 Trustee's Meeting
10 am

12/13 Second Saturday
Supper 5 pm

12/14 Last day to order
poinsettias

12/15 Deadline for
Mayflower Notes

12/22 Prudential Council

12/24 Christmas Eve
Service 7 pm

12/25 Christmas
Day



December 2014

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
7	Hobo Dinner & Carol sing	8	9	10 Trustees 10 am Handbells 4 pm	11 Choir 5:30 pm	12	13 Second Saturday Supper 5 pm
14	Poinsettia orders last day	15 Deadline for Mayflower Notes	16	17 Handbells 4 pm	18 Choir 5:30 pm	19	20
21	Pageant Prudential Council- noon	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service 7 pm	25 Christmas Day	26 Office closed	27
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve				