

# Mayflower Congregational Church



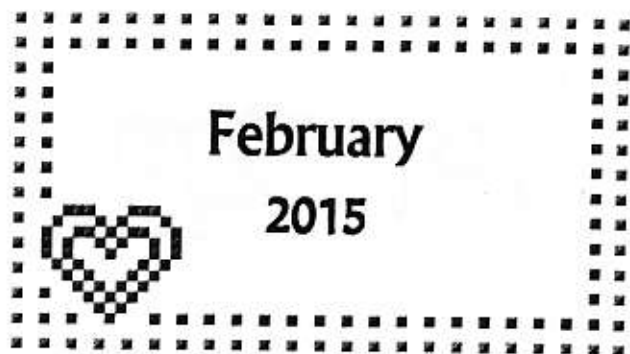
2901 W. Mt. Hope, Lansing, MI 48911

Telephone: 517-484-3139

Fax: 484-3139

Web site: [www.mayflowerchurch.com](http://www.mayflowerchurch.com)

e-mail: [info@mayflowerchurch.com](mailto:info@mayflowerchurch.com)



**Dr. Rick Martin**

Pastor

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# February



## Birthdays

2/1 Nancy McKay

2/9 Lisa Jones

2/16 Mark Holmes

2/21 Dick McKay

## Anniversaries

2/18 Janet Hershey and Bob Felter



## Head Ushers

Lois Ries

## Outreach Focus

Food Bank

Our "Fat Tuesday" pancake lunch will be held on Sunday, February 15th immediately after church. There will be pancakes, sausage and applesauce. Donations will be accepted. Invite your friends and family to the fun, food and fellowship event!!!

## From The Pastor's Desk

### Love Is In The Air

Ahhh! February. The Love Month with Valentine's Day. (A strange way to celebrate the martyred saint).

Valentine's Day has become a time to celebrate love, but giving gifts to those we "love", by being sad if we aren't "in love" at the moment, and by hoping our soul mate will find us on eharmony.com (this newsletter isn't large enough for my opinion here). While most cannot define love – "it is hard to describe, but you'll know it if you find it" – I am convinced that searching for love is why people end up in all the wrong places and strange lifestyles.

Love is a significant need for the human being. We are driven to find it. And while it seems to be well hidden from us and it eludes us at every turn; true love has always been very near to each of us.

John 3:16,17

<sup>16</sup>For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. <sup>17</sup>For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Ephesians 2:4,5

<sup>4</sup>But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, <sup>5</sup>made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions—it is by grace you have been saved.

I John 4:16

And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.

God loves YOU (just as you are, by the way). His love is unconditional, boundless, and eternal.



## Mayflower Financial News

Our December 2nd Saturday Supper was another success with a profit of \$644.22. A total of nine were held in 2014, netting \$5161.52. An increase of \$311 from 2013. An additional \$7,214.84 was raised through 2 thrift sales, 2 Iron Egg Weight-lifting events, Corned Beef Dinner, Italian Dinner/ Talent Show and several after church lunches.

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

Income:	\$ 6,717.36
Expenses:	7,566.11
	- \$ 848.75

YTD for Twelve Months

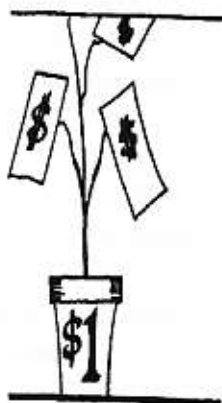
Income:	\$ 97,249.66
Expenses:	93,868.46
	\$ 3,381.20

Fund Balances:

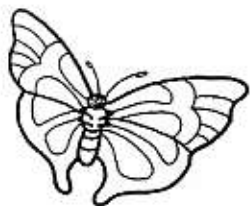
Checking:	\$ 16,194.69
Bequest Funds Savings	4,010.14
Memorial Fund CD	5,495.10
CD Savings	22,305.16
	\$ 48,005.09

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

Linda Wheeler  
Treasurer



## Christian Education



Monarch butterflies are a rare, yet thrilling sight in Michigan. Every year, my mother-in-law gently rescues some chrysalises from the milkweed plant in her backyard, and brings them inside into her own homemade butterfly exhibit – two lids of old cardboard boxes with clear plastic display windows, standing on end, and taped together with a variety of tapes over the years to allow insertion, feeding, and finally, release of the beautiful occupants. When our three girls were younger, they delighted in the ritual, which grew more elaborate year by year. Small nose prints can probably still be seen on the clear plastic, and it took many years to discourage all three from shaking the box. The wonder and awe at watching this life cycle playing out in Grandma’s kitchen, year after year, continues to be an amazing memory, and release day involved greater ceremony and ritual each time. Although the children don’t come over as much anymore, Grandma still hauls the box out in spring, bringing smiles to everyone’s faces, as we honor the past and celebrate the future.

Yet I find myself wondering about those box-raised monarchs today. Living in a cushy, climate controlled kitchen, with the best foods delivered and protected from predators and suffering, probably didn’t do the butterflies any favors when they faced the world. Did the first thunderstorm come as a shock, leaving them frightened and panicked? Did they understand how to hide from birds, or were they picked off in the first weeks, unable to survive in a world that shows no mercy? As parents, our urge to protect our children from pain and suffering is incredibly strong, yet we all know it is the storms in life that caused us to grow and develop. It does no good to raise a beautiful butterfly that is too fragile to survive in this world – better to raise a sturdy moth who can ride out the storms undamaged.

God can help us with this urge to over-protect – if we lean on Him, and turn over all of our fears and irrational impulses, He will see us through the anxiety and pain. It is so easy to try to seize the reins again, because we think if we control things, they go better. As experience has shown, though, this is usually the wrong path. “Letting go and letting God” is a mantra we should all adopt, so we can help those we love soar like butterflies.

Liz Canfield

## Music News

As I prepare for my second week's rehearsals and Sunday service, I catch glimpses of the beginnings of routine. The Tuesday morning meeting with Pastor Rick and Barb Fuller (today was our third such). Greeting and interacting with Cozette in the office, and with Dean here and there in the building. I am so very much enjoying this new beginning with all of you! I feel deeply warmed and held by your welcome, and I look forward to getting to know each of you better in the weeks ahead.

I spent several hours yesterday at a store for music educators in Grand Rapids, selecting potential anthems for our choir to sing. By the time these words go to print, the choir will have become acquainted with one or more of these new songs. We will have begun the process of bringing the music to life – a process I truly love! I'd like to invite each of you to consider joining us in this adventure. A background in music is absolutely NOT a prerequisite for singing in Mayflower's choir! A willingness to show up on Thursdays and Sundays ready to learn, and ready to add your voice to the bouquet of sound we are creating ... that is what is required. I would love to see you there!

Rachel Alexander  
Music Director



## Thrift Sale

Another thrift sale to benefit the church treasury is coming on March 27 and 28. Please start your spring cleaning early and check around your house to find good, saleable things that you have but don't really need any more. Remember, too, to invite friends, family, coworkers, etc., to donate items. We'll be glad to have them!

Plan to hold your stuff for now and bring it to the church after the Corned Beef Dinner on March 21.

We need a lot of help to set up, run the sale, and clean up after the sale, so please plan now to help. Set up dates will be March 24-26, 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (more or less, as needed). See Lorraine or Ann to volunteer to help.



## Dates to remember in February...

- |      |                                       |
|------|---------------------------------------|
| 2/1  | Food collection for<br>Salvation Army |
| 2/10 | Trustees Meeting -<br>noon            |
| 2/14 | Second Saturday<br>Supper - 5:00 p.m. |
| 2/15 | Deadline for Notes<br>articles        |
|      | Pancake Lunch after<br>church         |
| 2/16 | President's Day - office<br>closed    |
| 2/22 | Prudential Council-<br>Noon           |

