

Mayflower Notes...



Mayflower Congregational Church

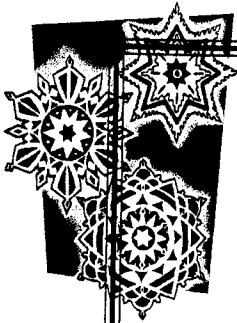
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January 2010



Dr. Rick Martin

Pastor

From the Pastor's Desk
THE VISION

The beginning of another new year. Wow, that happened fast! I remember our teacher in 5th grade math class asking how old we would be when the new millennium began. The math figured out to 49 years old. 49! Who would possibly want to be that old? But then, nothing to worry about; it was a long, long, long time away. Funny, in 2010 looking back, it doesn't seem that it took that long to get there and 49 just doesn't seem that old anymore.

I wonder if the founders of Mayflower Congregational Church envisioned us being here in the new millennium. What was their vision for this church? A better question may be what is OUR vision for Mayflower Church? Or a better question yet, what is God's vision for Mayflower?

Habakkuk 2:2,3 Then the LORD answered me and said, "Record the vision and inscribe it on tablets, that the one who reads it may run. For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it hastens toward the goal and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; for it will certainly come, it will not delay."

I don't have the detailed blueprint of God's vision for Mayflower Congregational Church (yet), but here is my "vision" for 2010: **continued growth**. "Continued" because we are growing! While many are simply attempting to survive in this economy, Mayflower Church is growing. Spiritually – I have grown spiritually in 2009 and believe others have also. Spiritual growth comes from Bible study, prayer, fellowship with other believers, corporate worship (our services), involvement in Kingdom activities, etc. May the Lord Jesus lead us in continued spiritual growth.

Mayflower Church is growing physically. We see a fair number of new faces each year. We received new members in 2008 and in 2009. I expect new members in 2010. **Continued Growth Thought:** if each of us brought just one person who began attending regularly, Mayflower Church would double in size in one year. "**Lord, help me to be faithful in attending and participating & show me who I can invite this year.**" AND while many organizations are cutting back because finances are decreasing, Mayflower Church is witnessing God's goodness and grace in increased pledges and income. Praise the Lord!

Pastor Rick's message cont.

I envision **continued growth**: in our Children's Ministry – it was wonderful to see the Children's Moment filled with kids a few times in 2009! I expect more in 2010. AND in our Music Ministry – seats are available in the choir and hand bells and children's choir. AND in our participation – although, Mayflower congregation that is so active! Usually 20% of the people do 80% of the work, but at Mayflower that is reversed. Praise the Lord again! However, don't let the people who always do "it" have all the fun, be involved: be an usher, a liturgist, a dishwasher at the 2nd Saturday suppers, help with the 5th Sunday services at Grandhaven Manor, or... or... or... Being involved in God's work is very satisfying.

AND if we envision Mayflower Congregational Church ministering to people 50 years from now, we need **continued growth** in prayer, inviting, involvement, ministry, encouragement – as God brings them in, trains them (through our example), and replaces us. I am praying fervently for God to send in young families, the Mayflower Congregational Church for decades to come.

I don't know what 2010 holds for us, but I pray, **"May YOUR perfect will be done."**

Lay Leader's Message



2009 is ending! That means my year as Lay Leader is ending! I have tried to make this a year in which I have allowed our members the freedom to go wherever Christ leads them. I feel that the Lay Leader should not influence the actions of the congregation. I believe that with this kind of freedom, the members of our congregation have accomplished much. Their accomplishments run the gamut from faith building to church building to community building. Examples of this building are shown in the response to the call for support with the "Food Drop" headed by the Holmes. Another example is the support for the office project done by the crew led by the Lowes and the Fullers.. I believe that with Pastor Rick's leadership God can work in our church and within our congregation for growth both spiritually and numerically. Next year your Lay Leader will be Rilla McHarris. I hope and pray you, the people of Mayflower, will give her your support in whatever she needs.

Dave



Music Notes for January 2010

Harmonic Instruction

Musicians of all levels explore ever-increasing complexities of melody, rhythm, and harmony. Beginning piano students start with simple melodic lines; toward the end of the first book they begin to strike notes together, creating harmony. As skills and knowledge increases, harmonies become more complex, and dissonant “clashing” combinations are an important part of the musical landscape, leading toward some type of resolution to conclude. Only rarely does music end in dissonance.

Romans 12: 15-16 states: *Rejoice with those who rejoice; mourn with those who mourn. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.*

There are several strong points in these few verses, but obviously we are instructed to Live in Harmony. Harmony implies consonant, tuneful harmony. Of course, this is simply not always possible in our fallen condition, and there will be dissonance in this life. Our challenge is to walk with God and to be led back to consonance, to harmony with our fellow persons and our world.

Be with us Lord, and help us to be in concordance, that is, in harmony with You.

Practical Matters:

Choir and Handbells are moving to Wednesdays in January, beginning January 6, at the same times. Beginning handbells will begin on January 8 at 5:00 pm. See you there.

Chrisann

Welcome to 2010!

It hardly seems possible that we have finished the first decade of this new century. Our Sunday School program has certainly undergone many changes in the past ten years! Thank you to everyone for your support for our annual Christmas program. The children did a lot of the development of the theme this year, and I am always impressed with how creative they are.

Our bake sale in December raised over \$89. We had \$85 from previous fundraising efforts, so we decided to contribute \$50 to Trees for Troops, which supplies Christmas trees to military families. We are contributing the money we raised on December 12-13 to the food drive that Mark and Lola Holmes are spearheading. Linda, Ann, and I felt that since we could do so much, it would be good to support an on-going outreach program to allow the kids to feel connected to the doings within the church.

In our effort to include service as one of the core Christian values that we are teaching, we have had the children participating in packing the Advent House lunches. In November, our youth eagerly participated in this project, even going so far as to refuse help from their more experienced counterparts! It was great to see them embracing the idea of helping others. Noreen and Dave have arranged to have a speaker from Advent House address them in January, so they can have a better understanding of the needs within our own community.

We look forward to keeping the kids busy in 2010!

Liz Canfield



Boyne Report from Rilla McHarris

Bill and I were the people who bought the weekend at Boyne Mountain in last summer's silent auction. We choose to go during the October color season, and we had a lot of fun, so Dave Boes asked me to write a report. We invited a couple of neighbors to go with us, and we asked for a condo with two bedrooms and two bathrooms. It came with living room, dining area, kitchen, two balconies, three TV's, and a Jacuzzi too. We drove up on Friday, admiring trees and stopping at a roadside stand to buy apples and homemade jelly. Saturday's predicted rain did not materialize, and we had a nice day walking through the woods in the morning and visiting a couple of art galleries and craft centers (and a fudge shop) in the afternoon. We returned to the condo in time to see the last of the Michigan/Michigan State game, and, feeling very happy, went to the "Skitober Fest" being held that weekend. As part of the fest, there were free rides on the ski lift up and down the mountain; we took the lift up and walked down past the ski runs, arriving back in the condo's backyard. We returned home on Sunday by a different route, once again keeping an eye out for beautiful trees.

An interesting note: we ate supper Saturday night at a small restaurant in Boyne Falls, where we chatted with the waitress about the game and Michigan State. Later that evening, back at the condo, we got a phone call. I had left my purse at the restaurant and would I like to come and pick it up? The waitress had remembered our talk and taken the time to track down where we were staying. If any of you go to Boyne Falls, would you please eat at the Mountainside Grille and tell the people there that you heard that they are really good people?

