

Mayflower Notes...

Mayflower Congregational Church

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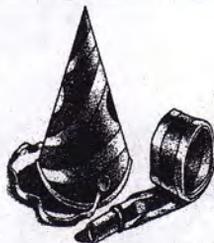
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Dr. Rick Martin

Pastor

*Dates to remember in
January..*



January 8

Second Saturday Supper

January 9

Communion

January 14

Game Night

January 17

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

January 23

Annual Meeting



This edition of Mayflower Notes is dedicated to the memory of Doris Graham; member, friend and longtime secretary.

Head Usher

Naida Kenyon



Outreach Focus

*Greater Lansing Food Bank
Mitten Tree*

Happy 2011!

It is another new year, and the start of our second decade of the 2000's. It seems like just yesterday that the New Year's ball brought an end to the 1990's!

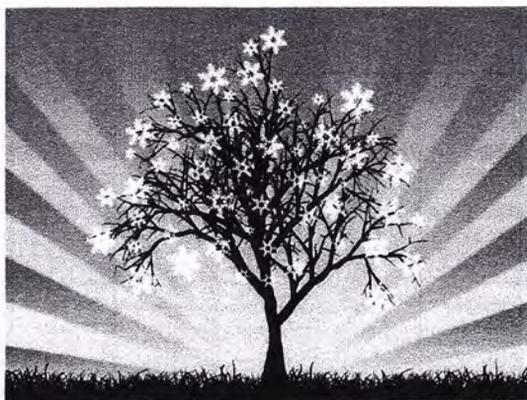
Our Christmas pageant was a great success this year. We had 18 kids plus our baby Jesus, which I believe is a record for a Mayflower Church pageant, at least in recent times. The kids did a great job and were very understanding as we pulled it together. I couldn't do it without Ann and Linda, who did the costumes and wrangled the children. Special thanks also to Sharon Graham, who had an unexpected starring role as Baby Handler!

In 2011, we have a guest speaker scheduled every month. In January, Meredith Kennedy will be teaching us some sign language, and we will be signing an old, familiar song for you later in the month. February brings the other famous Kennedy, Roger, to teach us about poison control and prescription drug abuse.

Here's hoping that 2011 continues the Lord's blessings upon Mayflower, and that we grow and prosper as individuals and as a church family.

Liz





Music for the New Year

Ah, the New Year. I now have been blessed to see many New Years. I finally have stopped making grandiose plans, but God does give us a new day. We can do all things with Christ.

Philippians 4:4-7 states: *Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

These verses are just full of hope and life advice for us. It gives us the germane idea that knowing God brings such peace that cannot be explained and yet is so great.

It also talks about prayer. There are two opposing ideas as to how to pray: the first is to pray specifically and deliberately for your need. The other idea is to simply “let go and let God” and to not direct or dictate your list to God. I am sure that both prayer methods have validity and effectiveness. It may very well depend on your need. God looks on the heart, after all. I read that empirically, general prayer is somewhat more effective. We pray “Thy Will Be Done” every week; it takes a growing, letting-go faith to let it be so.

Would you like to sing a favorite hymn? Please put your request in the offering plate, or talk to Chrisann or Lorraine. We will fit it in to service and it will add cheer to the New Year!



Friday, January 14 7 - 10 pm

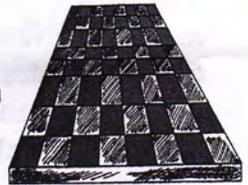
Winter Warm-Up Game Night

Your choice of games to play -
bridge, dominos (Mexican Train!),
chess, euchre, etc.



Doorprizes and Snacks!

Mayflower Congregational Church
2901 W. Mt. Hope Ave., Lansing
517-484-3139



Handicapper accessible - easy parking
Tickets at the door: \$5 (\$2 for a child)

*Warm up another - gloves or mittens gladly accepted
for our Mitten Tree for schoolchildren*



Safety Tips for Seniors Living Alone

Many senior citizens are choosing to live alone and care for themselves as they grow in age. Most seniors are quite capable of taking care of themselves, however, it is important that they follow simple safety tips for their home.

One mistake that seniors make concerning home safety is putting off fixing hazards. It is important that if you spot something on the floor or an appliance that needs to be repaired, you take care of it right away before someone is injured.

Tips to keep seniors safe:

- Make sure throw rugs and runners are always in a proper position.
- Never use damaged extension cords. Do not repair cords yourself. They are not expensive. Most about \$5.
- Keep cords and appliances away from water. If a cord falls into water consult an authority to see if the appliance is safe to use.
- If a senior has had trouble with balance and getting up after a fall a system such as an emergency medical alarm should be a consideration.
- Contact your utility company and find out if they have a low-income rate for seniors.
- Plan an emergency escape route in case of emergency.
- Check out the senior citizen organizations in your area and the services they offer.

Submitted by
Naida Kenyon



Hi!

Rob's address has changed slightly.

He has changed companies but is still at Redstone Arsenal.

So:

Change the address from "C" (Charlie) Company to "B" (Bravo) Company

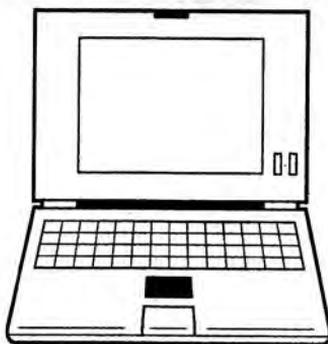
His new Platoon number is 2.

Thanks for making note of the corrections.

He is home until January 2.

He is now studying to be an Ammunitions Specialist. He hopes to graduate sometime before mid March. Then, we don't know.

Noreen and Dave



KIDS IN CHURCH

3-year-old Reese :

'Our Father, Who does art in heaven,

Harold is His name.

Amen

Lay Leader's Report

This year's Prudential Council is getting ready for the yearly changing of the guard at our Annual Meeting – coming up on the fourth Sunday of January: January 23. We know for sure that Roger Kennedy will be Lay Leader next year, because we all elected him to the position of Lay Leader Elect for this year. Similarly, I will morph into Lay Leader past. There are other positions we hope will not change. For example, Linda Wheeler is a fantastic Treasurer, a job requiring skills most of us (except previous long-time Treasurer Jerry Fuller!) don't have, and we hope she stays on forever. Some new members will be elected at the meeting. We hope that everyone will participate in this Congregational democracy! The Annual Report will be published before the meeting so everyone can see it ahead of time.

There will be a variation on our usual giant pot of chili before the Annual Meeting. Since we have hot dogs and brats left over from the Iron Egg contest (frozen in the meantime!), we are planning chili dogs/brats. Those who prefer plain chili or vegetarian chili can, of course, skip the dogs. Members of the Prudential Council will contribute buns, salad, and dessert. With any luck, we can start the meeting while dessert is still in progress in order to keep things moving.

This has been an exceptional year in many ways – new additions to our church family, the community spirit we enjoy under the leadership of our enthusiastic pastor, our successful “extracurricular” activities ... you name your favorites. I am really happy to have Mayflower as my church.

“Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open.”

Rilla McHarris



From the Pastor's Desk

A New Year - 2011

January 2011 – who would have thought we'd make it thus far? I remember in 7th grade math class, figuring out how old we'd be in 2000; and I couldn't imagine living that long or why. Yet, here we are a decade + a year past 2000. God's plans are very different from our plans; very different and much better.

Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

As I face another new year, I have to wonder what is in store for 2011. The answer is: I have no clue. Every year some wonderful things pop up out of nowhere – and some bad. However, based on what I have seen God doing lately around Mayflower Congregational Church and what I feel when praying about our Mayflower Church family, I perceive 2011 is going to be a good year. We are seeing some new faces in our services (which thrills the pastor). Children keep crowding around our steps during the Children's Moment (which thrills the pastor). We have been seeing some new faces participating in our services and other activities at church (which thrills the pastor). I could go on & on. God is blessing Mayflower and I have no reason to presume it is going to end anytime soon.

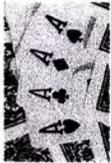
I am so glad YOU are a part of what God is doing at Mayflower Church. God has put a bunch of great people together here; loving, caring, giving, participating, praying, talented. I am privileged to be the pastor of such a wonderful group of people. YOU are Mayflower Church's best asset. I thank God for YOU. Thank you for being so wonderful!

We've gone through problems in the past. It would be infantile of me to think there will not be (minor) problems in the future. However, together with the help of God we will work through them, follow God's direction, and continue to be the church that God created us to be at this stage of our existence. Working together – trusting God – following God's will – loving one another – helping, caring, sharing our gifts: all equals a Great God working through loving people to bring much blessing to all in 2011.

It is going to be a very good year!



January 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 New Year's Day
				5 Handbells 6:00 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm	6 Handbells 6:00 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm	7 Second Saturday Supper
				12 Handbells 6:00 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm	13 Handbells 6:00 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm	14  Game Night 7 pm
				19 Handbells 6:00 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm	20 Handbells 6:00 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm	21 Items due for the February Newsletter
				26 Handbells 6:00 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm	27 Handbells 6:00 pm Adult Choir 7:30 pm	28
				3 Trustees Meeting 7 pm	11 Trustees Meeting 7 pm	15
				10 Quiet Worship Time 6:30 pm Martin Luther King, Jr Day	17 Quiet Worship Time 6:30 pm	22
				16 Communion	23 Annual Meeting	29
				24 Quiet Worship Time 6:30 pm	31 Quiet Worship Time 6:30 pm	
				2 