

Mayflower Notes...



Mayflower Congregational Church

2901 W. Mt. Hope, Lansing, MI 48911

Telephone: 517-484-3139

Fax: 484-3139

Web site: www.mayflowerchurch.com

e-mail: info@mayflowerchurch.com

**January
2013**



Dr. Rick Martin

Pastor

*Dates to remember in
January..*



January 1

New Year's Day

January 6

Communion

January 12

Second Saturday Supper

January 13

*Prudential Council
Meeting*

January 15

Newsletter items due

January 20

Annual Meeting

January 21

*Martin Luther King Jr.
Day*



Annual Meeting

In accordance with our Constitution and the requirements of Michigan statute, you are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of Mayflower Congregational Church will be held on Sunday, January 20, 2013, immediately after church in the Social hall. Agenda items should be given to Lay Leader Fred Lowe before the meeting.

From the Pastor's Desk

Happy New Year! 2013 is here (the Mayan calendar recycled without the world ending, imagine that). "Happy New Year" is not only my greeting to you, but it is also my prayer for you in 2013.

Happy: Happiness is more dependent upon your choice to be happy than what is happening to "make" you happy. Our attitude is more in our control than we would like to admit. We can choose to see the glass have full instead of half empty. We can choose to see the positives instead of dwelling on the negatives (every person's life always has both all the time). We can choose to trust God instead of worrying about the unknown. Our attitude (and feelings) follow our behavior. My prayer for you is you will choose to be happier more often in 2013.

New: My brain thinks in calendars (not sure how that will work in Heaven). A new year, new month, new week, new day and even new moment. Everything leading up to where I am is history – can't be changed, doesn't have to negatively affect my future. It is a new year, thus it can be a good year as I choose to be happier, healthier, make better choices and enhance my relationship with God and people. It can be a new beginning for every area of my life.

Year: I cannot believe how fast the years have gone by. They aren't slowing down any either. A lifetime doesn't seem as far away as it did 40 years ago. What is important also is very different now than it was decades ago. I wish I had done some things differently. Can't change that, but I can make some wiser choices from here on in; basically being the person He created me to be and doing what He wants me to be doing.

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. (might as well start in 2013).

Happy New Year! Amen.



“Prisoner for the Lord”

Paul wrote the book of Ephesians while in jail in the city of Ephesus, located in modern-day Turkey. He wanted them to think of themselves in a radically new way. Why not the new year to radically turn to Christ?

Chapter four identifies the followers as prisoners of the Lord. This is not literal, but if one is totally committed to a new way, it is a freely-given control.

“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. (and skipping to v. 13)... Until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

Well, this appears to be an impossible measure. Paul sets the bar very high. He is asking us to continually strive, to not give up, to try to be Christ-like again. I am the very worst, and I will try again. I have yelled at at least six people this year, but I will try again. I have tried to be kind, I hope to more than six people, and I will try again. The world is mean, Lord, but I will try again. I have made financial mistakes, emotional mistakes, physical mistakes, but I will try again.

How can we ever achieve complete unity and full maturity? There is no 100% to be understood; the bar is always before us. and even if we thought that we were getting there, yet how could we judge? But, we can uphold one another, as we do here, and keep ourselves as prisoners of the Word in Christ. A binding of our soul to the Lord.

Thanks
Chrisann

Is there a hymn that you would like to sing?
Just call the office, or slip a piece of paper
into my slot. We will do it!



Lay Leader's Report

As you read this, we will have embarked on a new year. Twelve months, 52 weeks, 365 days, 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes, and 31,536,000 seconds will transpire during 2013. What will the new year hold for each of us? While we'd like to think we're fairly knowledgeable about our future path, the truth is that the the future is unknowable. While we certainly can make our best plan and try to execute it, the truth is that anything could happen at any time. Contemplating these things can make us feel uncertain...even frightened - until we remember that we are ALWAYS in God's hands. When we remember that he has a plan for us - past, present, and future - then we can relax and take comfort that His love and guidance will see us through whatever tests, trials, and tribulations we may encounter. His unconditional love will always see us through; isn't that about as comforting as it gets? So, as we contemplate the months to come, Happy New Year - and Hallelujah!

Fred



Happy 2013!

It doesn't seem that long ago that we were embarking on a new millennium. Now, here we are, having survived the end of the world yet again, entering into another exciting year at Mayflower Church.

Morgan and Maggie will be resuming their confirmation studies this month. I hope to have this completed come spring. Ann and Linda have lots of interesting things planned for the younger children, as always.

We will be fixing lunches for Advent House in March, June, September, and December this year. We are always looking for volunteers to deliver the lunches, as packing them in my Jetta leaves Maggie strapped to the roof, and she hates that.

Stay tuned for another great year here at Mayflower!
Liz

Happy New Year

Merry Christmas Mali

Due to an anonymous donation and your generous contributions throughout the month, particularly at last Sunday's dinner and caroling, we were able to raise over \$1,600 for the radio station supported by Tom and Lisa Seward's mission in Mali. Your generosity will mean a great deal to a struggling nation. God bless them and us as we continue this mission work together.

The Prudential Council.



From the Editor

Just a quick note to let you know that my email address will be changing at some point in the next month. I will be able to have messages forwarded from the cablespeed address until the end of January.

Cozette will have my new address in the office and it will also appear on the next newsletter. This is, of course, not by choice but rather the changes instituted by my email service provider. Change is good for us, right????!

Meredith Kennedy



Birthdays



- 1/1 David McClelland
- 1/5 Marilyn Betts
- 1/8 Janet Hershey
- 1/11 Abigail Rutledge
- 1/16 Karen Nault
- 1/24 Susan Schweinfurth
- 1/28 Kathryn Fuller



Anniversaries

- 1/1 Jerry and Barb Fuller

Head Usher

Naida Kenyon

Outreach Focus

Food Bank, Mitten Tree

