

Mayflower Congregational Church



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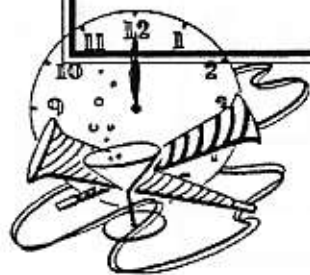
January
2017

Dr. Rick Martin

Pastor

It's happening in
January...

- | | |
|------|------------------------------------|
| 1/1 | New Year's Day |
| 1/5 | No Choir |
| 1/8 | Communion |
| 1/13 | Trustees 10 am |
| 1/14 | Second Saturday
Supper -5:00 pm |
| 1/15 | Deadline for May-
flower Notes |
| | Prudential Council
Noon |
| 1/19 | No Choir Rehearsal |
| 1/29 | Annual Meeting |



From The Pastor's Desk



A New Wonderful Year

Each year, as I am writing the Mayflower Notes article for January (in December), I am reminded of my dad's boss of 50+ years ago. He was a devout Seventh-Day Adventist, who believed the Lord Jesus was returning that year. I forget the year, but all year long he told everyone – and dad discussed it with mom several times (thus I overheard it). On New Year's Eve, returning from a church service with his family, he was killed in a car wreck (a few minutes before midnight). While his "prophecy" was not true for everyone, I guess it did turn out to be correct for him.

Although I am not guaranteed a spot in 2017, I am looking forward to a very blessed year. God Almighty wants His children to have a great, wonderful year. In Jeremiah 29:11-13 God says to His children, ***"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. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."***

God's blessings do not arbitrarily fall on us. We place ourselves in position to receive the best of His blessings by 1) communication with Him. Prayer is talking to Him. He talks to us (mainly) through reading His Word, the Bible. 2) Being the person He created us to be – thus bringing our thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors in line with His will; which is also revealed in His Word. 3) Doing what He has called us to do – we all have gifts and abilities to use in Kingdom work. Involvement in the local church and fellowshiping with Christians does help also.

I pray you will have a blessed and wonderful year, and that you will take another step or two towards God's perfect will for you personally. I believe 2017 is going to be a wonderful year for Mayflower Church. I am excited about what God is going to do in us and through us this year.

Music Notes

From Barb Fuller



Our recessional hymn for January 1st, 2017 will be “All Beautiful the March of Days”, #456 in our Pilgrim Hymnal, whose words were written by Frances W. Wile around 1907. This is not a hymn we sing often at Mayflower because it is specific to the season of winter.

O'er white expanses sparkling pure The radiant morns unfold;
The solemn splendor of the night Burn brighter through the cold.
Life mounts in every throbbing vein, Love deepens round the hearth,
And clearer sounds the angel hymn, “Good will to men on earth.”

What is interesting is that directly across the page from “All Beautiful the March of Days” in our hymnal are words of a hymn called “The Summer Days Are Come Again” which is sung to the same tune of FOREST GREEN, a traditional English melody arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams. The words to that hymn were written by Samuel Longfellow. Both hymns have lovely sentiments that reflect the seasons they represent and the beauty that God has created

The summer days are come again; The birds are on the wing;
God's praises, in their loving strain, Unconsciously they sing.
We know who giveth all the good That doth our cup o'erbrim;
For summer joy in field and wood We lift our song to him.

My wish for you is this coming year is that you are comforted and inspired by hymns such as “All Beautiful the March of Days” and that no matter what season you are in, you feel God's presence. Happy New Year.



Mayflower Heat Fund

Our savings account for a new heating system continues to grow. Thank you!

The Gold Wrapping Paper - An Inspirational Short Christmas Story

Once upon a time, there was a man who worked very hard just to keep food on the table for his family. This particular year a few days before Christmas, he punished his little five-year-old daughter after learning that she had used up the family's only roll of expensive gold wrapping paper.

As money was tight, he became even more upset when on Christmas Eve he saw that the child had used all of the expensive gold paper to decorate one shoebox she had put under the Christmas tree. He also was concerned about where she had gotten money to buy what was in the shoebox.

Nevertheless, the next morning the little girl, filled with excitement, brought the gift box to her father and said, "This is for you, Daddy!"

As he opened the box, the father was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, now regretting how he had punished her.

But when he opened the shoebox, he found it was empty and again his anger flared. "Don't you know, young lady," he said harshly, "when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside the package!"

The little girl looked up at him with sad tears rolling from her eyes and whispered: "Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into it until it was all full."

The father was crushed. He fell on his knees and put his arms around his precious little girl. He begged her to forgive him for his unnecessary anger.

An accident took the life of the child only a short time later. It is told that the father kept this little gold box by his bed for all the years of his life. Whenever he was discouraged or faced difficult problems, he would open the box, take out an imaginary kiss, and remember the love of this beautiful child who had put it there.

In a very real sense, each of us has been given an invisible golden box filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children, family, friends and God. There is no more precious possession anyone could hold.

Mayflower Financial News

Our November Second Saturday Supper was a sell-out, with a record-breaking profit of \$867, which was made possible by the increase in the number of servings from 106 to 114 and the ticket price increase from \$8 to \$9 this fall.

Major plumbing expenses in late October and early November involved replacement of the sink, faucet, and disposal in the downstairs kitchen and replacement of the toilet in the upstairs men's restroom. This work performed by Shields & Sons totalled \$1944.

21 pledges were received for 2017, totalling \$49,244, an increase of \$1140 over 2016. THANK YOU!!

The following is a summary of our finances as of November 30:

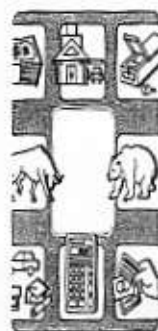
Income:	\$ 7,632.11
Expenses:	<u>5,115.31</u>
	\$ 2,516.80

YTD for Eleven Months:

Income:	\$ 89,681.47
Expenses:	<u>63,597.00</u>
	\$ 26,084.47

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 15,264.66
Bequest Funds Savings:	26,019.35
Heat Fund Savings:	18,334.36
Memorial Fund CD:	5,499.43
Savings CD:	<u>22,315.05</u>
	\$ 87,432.85



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

— Linda Wheeler, Treasurer



January

BIRTHDAYS

1/8 - Janet Hershey

1/11 - Abigail Rutledge

1/24 - Lois Ries

1/24 - Susan Schweinfurth

1/28 - Kathryn Fuller

Anniversaries

1/1 - Jerry and Barb Fuller (45 years)

Head Usher

Lois Ries

Outreach Focus

The Mitten Tree

