

# Mayflower Notes...



## *Mayflower Congregational Church*

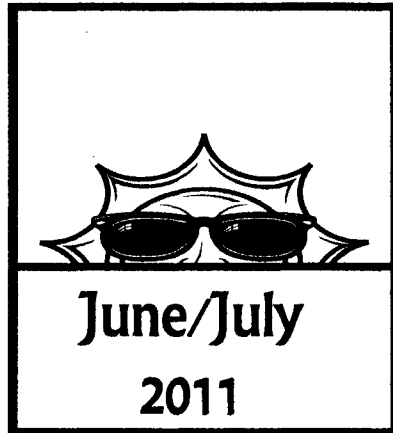
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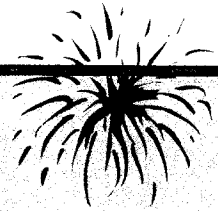
**Dr. Rick Martin**

**Pastor**

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*Dates to remember in  
June & July*



June 2

*Lewton Pre-school  
Graduation*

June 5

*All-Church Picnic*

June 8

*Lewton 5th Grade  
Graduation*

June 19

*Prudential Council -  
noon  
Father's Day*

July 14

*Trustees 5 p.m.*

July 15

*Newsletter item deadline*

July 17

*Prudential Council - noon*

July 31

*Advent House lunches*



**Thrift/Rummage Sale**

**Start collecting your "stuff" now! Our sale has been scheduled for Friday and Saturday, June 24th 11:00 - 7:00 p.m. and Saturday, June 25th 9:00 - 3:00. Bag time will be 11-3 on Saturday. If you can help with set-up prior to the sale contact Lorraine Finison.**

## Mayflower NOTES for June/July 2011

From the Pastor's Desk

### When The Fig Tree Doesn't Bud

During the years prior to Israel's deportation to Babylon, the nation was in rebellion to God, involved in gross idolatry and immorality, refusing to pay taxes imposed by the world powers of the day and suffering drought, earthquakes, invasions, crop failures, etc., as God was attempting to call the Nation back to Himself. The mass population at that time continued to stray farther and farther from God, refusing to repent and thus Israel experienced further loss of God's blessings until Babylon came and took them all away.

I wonder what the godly Jews were thinking during this time. There were a few of them, the prophets (who didn't get killed by the king of the moment), Daniel and his college buddies, and a few others. They were following God's way, doing God's work, living for God, doing what was right – yet they were experiencing the same sufferings as the rest of the nation. That doesn't seem very fair to me: doing what is right and still missing out on the blessings of God! What's a person to do?

Good question: What's a person to do?

a) When the blessings of God are falling like the dew of heaven – follow God and be thankful (sometimes we forget to express our thankfulness to God during the blessed times). Ephesians 5:20.

b) When the blessings of God are 'right around the corner' but not being totally experience yet - follow God and be thankful for what you have (as opposed to whining about what you don't have). I Thessalonians 5:16-18.

c) When you are doing everything "right" and the blessings aren't coming – take it from someone who was there, Habakkuk the prophet of God; be thankful.

Habakkuk 3:17,18

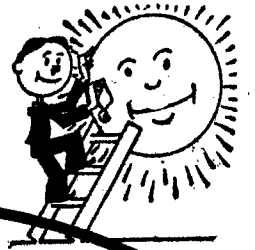
*Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines,  
though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food,  
though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, yet I  
will rejoice in the LORD,  
I will be joyful in God my Savior.*

Evidently, being thankful to God **IN & FOR** our circumstances goes a long way with God. Daniel did okay while God was chastising Israel for their sin. Daniel followed God and was full of thanksgiving.

## LAY-LEADER'S MISSIVE

Despite the cold, inclement weather as I write this, we are fast approaching Summer; a time when life at Mayflower slows down but is no less important. There are many signs of this phenomena: this newsletter is for June & July, the choirs are over for a few months as are 2<sup>nd</sup> Sat. suppers, Sunday School is on a different program, Dr. Rick is preparing for his trip to N.A. conference in Ariz. and we are discussing fund-raisers to send youth to church camp

There are still many activities and reasons to be aware of the next few months. The Lansing Ecumenical Men's Chorus will be singing for our service on June 19<sup>th</sup> (Father's Day). This is a talented group of about 30 men from church choirs in the area. We will provide refreshments for them; anyone interested in helping, please let me know. Plan to attend with friends and family that day. We can make powerful music!!! A Lugnuts baseball outing is again being planned for July 22<sup>nd</sup> – Christian family night with LAFCU fireworks. Watch for further information. Hopefully, weather will improve enough to allow us to complete outdoor projects. Please see the sign-up sheet. Chrisann is in charge of outdoor painting projects, let her know if you can help. You will find information about the upcoming rummage sale elsewhere in the newsletter. We will let you know the results of the interest surveys. Busy, Busy, Busy.... As many of us travel or have vacation or other plans that take us away from regular attendance (well deserved??), please keep the church in your minds and hearts. May your Summer be all that you want it to be.. Blessings, Rog



The church directory will be updated this summer. If there is any change in your information, please be sure to advise Cozette in the office. Be sure to provide your email address!

It's the end of the yet another great year for Mayflower's Sunday School program, and I have so much to be thankful for this year! Fantastic students, great teachers, interesting guest speakers, and the support of a wonderful congregation!

Plans are being made for our "Funday School" program for the summer, so watch the bulletin board for upcoming activities. We will be having a Sunday School swimming party at my house later this summer, too.

Thank you all for another great year. I look forward to seeing you again in the fall with more Sunday School updates.

Liz



A very special thanks to Ann McClelland for all of her hard work in coordinating the Second Saturday Suppers and funeral lunches again this year (not to mention ringing, singing, and teaching Sunday School!). She does a wonderful job with all of it, and we are grateful for all of her efforts! We are blessed to have so many willing volunteers in the church (you know who you are!), but an organizer and coordinator is very necessary to make everything run smoothly!



## **What are you doing with your weekend...**

### **Sunday Composers by Dr. Michael A. Halleen**



We have different gifts, according to the grace given us... (Let us) use it in proportion to (our) faith.” (Romans 12:6)

Alexander Borodin was a nineteenth century Russian composer. His opera, Prince Igor, is thought by some to have been his most significant work.

Borodin, however, always considered himself no more than a parttime musician - a “Sunday composer,” as he called himself. His training and professional career were in organic chemistry. He worked as a researcher in that field, writing articles and delivering lectures in Russian universities and throughout Western Europe. On weekends, as a hobby, he wrote string quartets and symphonic poems- and Prince Igor. It’s that music that became his legacy to the world. Likewise...

- Socrates was a stonemason who made a good, honest living. But he was a curious man, and in his off hours he asked questions and challenged people to think. Today he’s remembered as the founder of Western philosophical thought.

- Alexander Graham Bell was a teacher whose wife was nearly deaf, and at least in part as an effort to assist her to hear better, he invented the telephone. What started as weekend tinkering to solve a domestic problem revolutionized communication for all.

- The Wright brothers built bicycles in Ohio, but when business was slow they fiddled around with the idea of flying. It was just a sideline. Then came that December day in Kitty Hawk, and the Wrights would forever be associated with flight.

- Jimmy Carter was, in many ways, an undistinguished, garden variety U.S. president. Since leaving office, however, he has achieved greatness in still another career as an international diplomat and humanitarian.

The gifts that lie within many are too great to be confined to a single avenue of expression. The interests that drive some spirits are too varied and rich to be satisfied with punching the same clock for forty years. And, for a certainty, the needs of the world go well beyond the contribution any of us can make to meet them in a mere eight hours per day. We need more “Sunday composers.”

Are the dreams still hidden in you? What are you doing next weekend?