

Mayflower Congregational Church



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**March
2014**

Dr. Rick Martin

Pastor

From The Pastor's Desk

Summer is coming! Yes, that has been hard to believe during these long, cold, snowy, icy winter months. Many times it has looked impossible or too far away to actually get our hopes up. However, we are closer now than when winter first arrived. Summer is coming soon!

During our Christian walk, many times we find ourselves in the middle of some 'winter' trial or tribulation. Something we didn't expect, didn't see coming, didn't think would happen to us, and definitely didn't deserve. The loss of a loved one, sickness, disease, the loss of a job, or something that overtook our life and doesn't want to let go – like winter in Michigan in 2014. I cannot see around the corners when I pull up to a stop sign in my car.

Shortly, the trees will begin to bud and the flowers will begin to poke their heads up. In Michigan and in the 'winter' trials of our lives. Shortly, the warm sunshine will melt away my winter memories. Shortly the warm Sonshine will melt away my 'winter' trial memories – because they will be over.

Matthew 24:32

Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near.

Romans 13:11,12



Thrift Sale

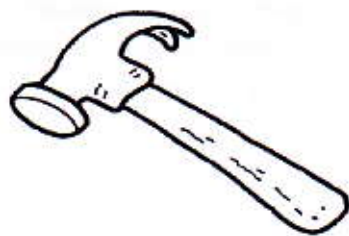
Another thrift sale to benefit the church treasury is coming on April 25 and 26. Please start your spring cleaning early and check around your house to find good, saleable things that you have but don't really need any more. Remember, too, to invite friends, family, coworkers, etc., to donate items. We'll be glad to have them!

Plan to hold your stuff and bring it in any time after the Second Saturday Supper on April 12. We also need a lot of help to set up, run the sale, and clean up after the sale, so please mark your calendars now for that week. Set up dates and times will be announced soon. See Lorraine or Ann to volunteer to help.



From the Trustees — repairs

We are going to begin a capital campaign to raise money to fix our leaking roof, to fix our leaking basement, and to fill the cracks in the parking lot. The leaking roof is the flat roof over the Pastor's office, and we will have a photo to show this. The basement leak comes from the east-side window well; apparently rain rushes down the sanctuary roof so fast that it overshoots the eavestrough and pools in the window well faster than the drain can carry it away. Our first solution for this is to build up the outside edge of the eavestrough. The cracks in the parking lot are obvious. We have bids for \$14,738.76 to put a new surface on the flat roof and for \$2500 to fill the cracks in the parking lot. We got these bids last fall before it snowed. Now we have to wait for the snow to go away to get additional bids, but we think we can't wait to start raising money for the repairs. You are going to hear a lot more about this.



Lay Leader's Missive

We've certainly had our share of cold weather this winter. It seems that our luck with recent milder winters has finally run out. Of course there is a silver lining. The cold has forced me indoors, which allows more time to catch up on my reading and organizing that I put off doing in the summer and fall when the weather was too nice to come in before dark.

Winter is also a good time to prepare for spring that lies ahead. In my case it's planning the garden. What new varieties of plants and seeds should we try? How many rows of corn should I plant? These questions give Barb and me something to argue about. I want to enlarge the garden and she keeps trying to scale it back. I'm confident that we'll reach a good compromise this year that we'll both be unhappy with. By the way, that's the definition of a good compromise.

I have also had time to think about what a great fellowship we have here at Mayflower. We are small in number but mighty in spirit. We work together and everything gets done. That doesn't happen by accident. It takes dedicated people that believe Mayflower Church has a purpose in God's Kingdom.



Jerry Fuller,
Lay Leader

Talent Show

Big thanks to all Talent Show artists and helpers! A fun time was enjoyed by all. We will publish the proceeds in the Bulletin. Proceeds go to the Greater Lansing Area Food Bank, if you would like simply contribute to Linda, or Cozette.

Ascension-from our Sermon Series

From Luke 25: On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!

Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; but they were kept from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?" "What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. In addition, some of our women amazed us. They went to the tomb early this morning but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken!

Yet is it hard to believe the unbelievable, the extraordinary. It is difficult to lean fully on God and to know that He desires the best for us. The women at the tomb knew what they saw, and then they were told again by Jesus as they left, although they could not recognize Him. Jesus is such a bright and shining star that we are sometimes afraid of His brilliance, afraid to enter the realm of Christianity. Jesus took the bravest step to Glory, and we are invited to follow Him.

Chrisann Lowe



March

Birthdays

- 3/4 Warren Emrick
3/9 Lis Tingley
3/12 Kathy Sundermeyer
3/15 Marissa Slater
3/15 Peggy Black
3/18 Gordon Wilson
3/19 Naida Kenyon
3/20 Lorraine Finison
3/20 Ben Rutledge
3/22 Donna Slater
3/22 Ardath Scheffel
3/23 Ruth Lewis (93)
3/28 April Fuller
3/28 Shirley Potts



Head Ushers

Naida Kenyon and Lois Ries

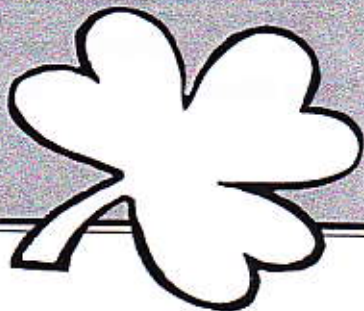
Outreach Focus

Food Bank

*Dates to remember in
March...*



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|-------------|---|
| <i>3/2</i> | <i>Men's Pancake Brunch</i> |
| <i>3/8</i> | <i>Second Saturday
Supper</i> |
| <i>3/9</i> | <i>Daylight Savings Time
Begins</i> |
| <i>3/15</i> | <i>Corned Beef Dinner \$12</i> |
| <i>3/16</i> | <i>Prudential Council -
Noon</i> |
| <i>3/17</i> | <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> |
| <i>3/30</i> | <i>Advent Lunches</i> |



Mayflower Financial News

2014 begins a new year in the life of the church. We were able to reduce our Expense Budget to \$86,934 based on our expenses for 2013. Our January Second Saturday Supper netted \$478.79 profit. A more detailed report is available in the brochure rack in the church lobby.

A brief summary of our finances as of January 31, 2014:

Income:	\$ 5,066.54
Expenses:	6,254.04
	- \$ 1,187.50

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 11,675.88
Bequest Funds Savings	4,009.04
Memorial Fund CD	5,492.66
CD Savings	22,300.21
	\$ 43,477.79

Linda Wheeler
Treasurer



Christian Education

The Sunday School kids are having fun, no matter how high the snow gets! There was a Senior High P.F. retreat in January, and Morgan had a wonderful time reconnecting with old friends. The spring retreat is the first weekend in March, and junior and senior high students can attend. I know Dominic is looking forward to having fun with his P.F. friends, too!

We've been working on a couple of different things in Sunday School. As a class, we're watching "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe." The movie is based on the first of a series of allegorical children's tales by C.S. Lewis, and explores issues such as faith, morality, discrimination, and sacrifice. Plus, it's a rollicking good tale filled with action and adventure.

We have also been working on the Talk Sheet series I discussed in an earlier issue. We just completed one on using a mistake to grow as a person, and there was lively discussion about the difficulties of growing up in the modern world.

Don't forget to get your tickets now for the Corned Beef dinner on March 15th!

Liz



Fat Tuesday Pancake Brunch

Don't forget to sign up for the Pancake Brunch which will be held on Sunday, March 2, immediately following the church service.

A free will offering will be taken.

Bring your friends, bright shirts and beads to this time of fellowship.

- **Tin/Steel Cans:** Food and beverage containers. All sizes, paper labels are acceptable, but not food remainders.
- **Scrap Metal:** Includes metal pots and pans, metal trays, metal bakeware, toasters, metal utensils, etc. Empty aerosol containers will be accepted. No wire hangers.
- **Aluminum:** Used beverage containers and foil clean of food.
- **Plastic Bottles and Containers:** #1, #2, #4, #5, #6, #7 (NO #3 PVC or styrofoam)
- **Bulky Rigid Plastic:** Buckets, chairs, toys, bins, barrels, etc. Look for HDPE symbol.
- **Cartons:** Includes milk cartons, juice cartons and boxes, etc.
- **Telephone Books and Gift wrapping paper:** No ribbons or bows.



Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner

Liz Canfield will again be cooking corned beef and cabbage on March 15th. This has been a very popular dinner and it sells out quickly. Tickets are available in the office; \$12 for adults and \$6 for children.

Tickets will go on sale February 20th through March 12th. Entertainment again provided by the Vintage Woodwind Quartet.

From the Trustees

Those of you who looked at our budget at the time of the Annual Meeting may remember a line item for "Recycling." The city of Lansing does not require us to recycle, but we have chosen to do it, because we think it is the right thing to do. So we pay for the privilege of recycling, and we hope that you all will take advantage of this ability to recycle. Second Saturday Supper and other uses of the kitchens are particularly good opportunities. A big wheeled bin gets taken to the curb, but there are smaller bins inside for you to use. Near the upstairs kitchen, put items for recycling in the plastic container to the right of the coffee counter. There is also a bin in the downstairs kitchen. Here is Lansing's list of recyclables:

Accepted Materials (no need to separate them in the container)(don't bring stuff from home)

- Paper: Includes office paper, junk mail, envelopes, file folders, greeting cards, etc.
- Newspapers: Includes advertisements and inserts.
- Magazines & Catalogs: Includes glossy fillers or mailers.
- Corrugated cardboard: Please do not clog carts.
- Boxboard: Commonly used in dry food and cereal boxes, shoe boxes and other similar packaging.
- Paper Grocery Bags
- Glass: Transparent and translucent food and beverage bottles and containers. Paper labels are acceptable as are rings and lids on glass containers. All colors of glass are accepted, including green.