

Mayflower Notes...



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Dr. Rick Martin

Pastor

Mayflower NOTES – May
From Pastor Rick's Desk



Ruth's Faithfulness

During the time when the Judges rules in Israel, we find a wonderful Hebrew short story about Ruth. During a time of famine, Naomi and her husband and sons relocated from Israel to Moab. During most of Israel and Moab's history, they have been arch enemies. However, for whatever reason, Naomi's family found a place of refuge and the boys even married Moab women, whom evidently took on the Jewish faith and customs of the times.

Then tragedy struck. Naomi's husband died, followed too soon by the death of her sons. In the midst of her grief and distress, she hears that the years of famine have ended in Israel and she decides to return to the land of her birth. So she packs up and begins the journey home, her daughters-in-law in tow. However, being a fair person and probably realizing the trials that awaited her Moabite daughters-in-law, she released them from the social customs of the day to return to their peoples and customs and social life. Orpah, though torn by grief, listened to her mother-in-law and returned to her people. Ruth, on the other hand, responded with,

Ruth 1:16,17

"... Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God. Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. ..."

Wow! What loyalty. What faithfulness. What commitment. Rare indeed, in any life or time. Ruth's undying loyalty to the one and only true God in service to Naomi is revealed in the following pages of our story. Ruth was a woman of her word and her later actions backed up what she had said earlier. The Marines are looking for a few good men with this quality. God is inspiring a few good people with this characteristic. Pastors are hoping for a few good parishioners like Ruth.

What a lesson for us today: undying loyalty to Jesus the Lord, faithfully serving Him through our Mayflower church family. Not attending just when it is convenient, or throwing a tip into the offering plate occasionally, or volunteering to help in order to look good to others. Faithfully serving Him – doing what Jesus wants, not the other way around. Loyal, consistent over time, committed for the long haul was Ruth to God in service to Naomi – and wonderful blessings resulted. The same is true for the rare breed of persons who are loyal to the Lord Jesus, faithfully serving Him through their Mayflower church family.

From the Lay Leader

STORY NUMBER ONE

Many years ago, Al Capone virtually owned Chicago, enmeshing the windy city in everything from bootlegged booze and prostitution to murder. Capone had a lawyer nicknamed "Easy Eddie." He was Capone's lawyer for a good reason. His skill at legal maneuvering kept Big Al out of jail for a long time.

To show his appreciation, Capone paid him very well. Not only was the money big, he and his family occupied a fenced-in mansion so large that it filled an entire block. Eddie lived the high life of the Chicago mob and gave little consideration to the atrocity that went on around him. Eddie did have one soft spot, however. He had a son that he loved dearly, and he saw to it that his son had clothes, cars, and a good education. Yet, with all his wealth and influence, there were two things he couldn't give his son; he couldn't pass on a good name or a good example. One day, Easy Eddie reached a difficult decision. Easy Eddie wanted to rectify wrongs he had done. He decided he would go to the authorities and tell the truth about Al Capone, clean up his tarnished name, and offer his son some semblance of integrity. To do this, he would have to testify against The Mob. Within the year, Easy Eddie's life ended in a blaze of gunfire on a lonely Chicago Street. But in his eyes, he had given his son the greatest gift he had to offer. Police removed from his pockets a rosary, a crucifix, a religious medallion, and a poem clipped from a magazine:

"The clock of life is wound but once, and no man has the power to tell just when the hands will stop, at late or early hour. Now is the only time you own. Live, love, toil with a will. Place no faith in time. For the clock may soon be still."

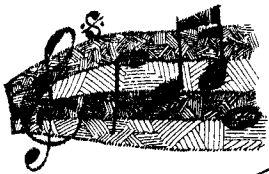
STORY NUMBER TWO

World War II produced many heroes. One such man was Lieutenant Commander Butch O'Hare. He was a fighter pilot assigned to the aircraft carrier Lexington in the South Pacific. One day his entire squadron was sent on a mission. After he was airborne, he looked at his fuel gauge and realized that someone had forgotten to top off his fuel tank. He would not have enough fuel to complete his mission and get back to his ship. His flight leader told him to return to the carrier. Reluctantly, he dropped out of forma-

tion and headed back to the fleet. As he was returning to the mother ship, he saw something that turned his blood cold; a squadron of Japanese aircraft was speeding its way toward the American fleet. The American fighters were gone on a sortie, and the fleet was all but defenseless. Laying aside all thoughts of personal safety, he dove into the formation of Japanese planes. Wing-mounted 50 caliber's blazed as he charged in, attacking one surprised enemy plane and then another. Butch wove in and out of the now broken formation and fired at as many planes as possible until all his ammunition was spent. Finally, the exasperated Japanese squadron took off in another direction. Deeply relieved, Butch O'Hare and his tattered fighter limped back to the carrier. This took place on February 20, 1942, and for that action Butch became the Navy's first Ace of W.W.II, and the first Naval Aviator to win the Medal of Honor. A year later Butch was killed in aerial combat at the age of 29. His home town would not allow the memory of this WW II hero to fade, and today, O'Hare Airport in Chicago is named in tribute to the courage of this great man. So, the next time you find yourself at O'Hare International, give some thought to visiting Butch's memorial displaying his statue and his Medal of Honor. It's located between Terminals 1 and 2.

SO WHAT DO THESE TWO STORIES HAVE TO DO WITH EACH OTHER?

Butch O'Hare was "Easy Eddie's" son.



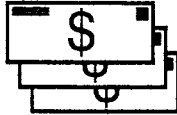
Attention all songbirds, Sunday, May 9th an alumnichoir will be singing the inspirational anthem "With a Voice of Singing". Whether or not you have sung with Mayflower's choir, if you can read music you are welcome to join in on the fun. We will be rehearsing Thursday evening, May 6th and again before the service on Sunday. Don't miss it!



Prudential Council Report

Our fund-raising efforts for missions has been a great success. We raised over \$1,600 on our various Haitian relief efforts. Funds were split evenly between the Salvation Army and Red Cross. Thanks to all who so generously gave of their time and money.

The annual pancake and corned beef dinners netted over \$400 which was sent to two different missions. You are very generous!!! Thank you!



Clean-up Day

Clean-up day has been moved to the morning of May 8th. There is a sign-up sheet on the white board. There is much to be done this year to keep our property looking decent, so please consider this event if at all possible. We will meet at 9"30 a.m. If you are unable to help on that day please use the sign-up sheet for other times and projects. Questions may be directed to the Boes' or Roger Kennedy.



Head Usher

Nalda Kenyon

Outreach focus

Lansing food Bank



Stewardship Minute Message

The Joy of Giving

There is a story of a woman who saw a poor barefoot child roaming the street of a large city. She took the child by the hand to the closest shoe store, and bought the little girl socks and shoes. With “happy feet” the little girl ran gleefully from the store.

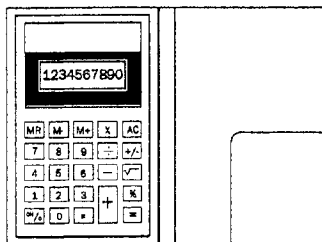
Disappointed that she had not even received a word of gratitude from the child, the woman paid for the socks and shoes. As she walked out the shop door, the little girl came back to the store, eyes bright with excitement. “Are you God’s wife?” she asked the woman. Smiling, the woman said, “No, but I am God’s child.” The little girl said, “I knew that you were some kin of His.”

As God’s people, nurtured by Word and Sacrament, we are transformed into His likeness. Christ’s character becomes our character, and we become more like Him. Because His goodness flows through us, we are able to offer shoes and socks to those who are in need. Our eyes are opened to opportunities that need our support and our hearts willingly share what we are able. We are stewards of God’s love and generosity to the whole world. As Jesus said, *“It is more blessed to give than to receive.”* (Acts 20:35)

If you are not experiencing the joy of giving, ask God to change your heart so you can grow in your giving and become a cheerful giver. Through faith, you can take a leap of faith in your giving.

Ron Chewning

Stewardship Advisors



April showers may bring May flowers, but it also brings a lot of pollen! My head is stuffed as I write today, trying to gaze into my crystal ball!





We are winding up yet another wonderful Sunday School year. As the kids get older, we seem to find new things to share and enjoy, and the lessons get deeper and more meaningful. I feel very blessed to have this opportunity with them.

Ann, Linda and I are planning to run a limited program this summer - more "Funday School" than Sunday School. I am so glad to have their talent available to use! I hope that people enjoyed my first foray into adult education with an overview of our Congregational Heritage.

Mark your calendars now - the annual picnic will be held on May 16, 2010, and coincide with the music celebration. A main dish, beverages and cake will be provided. Each family should bring a dish to pass and their own table settings.

Liz Canfield

May 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Quiet Worship Time 6:30 pm	4	5	6 Handbells 6 pm Choir 7:30 pm	7	8 Clean-up Day Second Saturday Supper 5 pm
9 Mother's Day 	10 Quiet Worship Time 6:30 pm	11	12 Trustees 7 pm	13 Handbells 6 pm Choir 7:30 pm	14	15 Newsletter Deadline
16	17 Quiet Worship Time 6:30 pm	18	19	20 Handbells 6 pm Choir 7:30 pm	21	22
23 Pentecost Sunday Music, Sunday School Recognition Picnic	24 Quiet Worship Time 6:30 pm	25	26	27	28	29
30 Trinity Sunday	31 Memorial Day Office Closed	