

Mayflower Congregational Church



2901 W. Mt. Hope, Lansing, MI 48911
Telephone and Fax: 517/484-3139

Website: www.mayflowerchurch.com
Email: info@mayflowerchurch.com



Dr. Rick Martin
Pastor



It's happening in May...

- 5/2 Lunch and Learn- after coffee*
- 5/11 Trustees Meeting - 2:30 p.m.*
- 5/13 Second Saturday Supper
5 p.m.*
- 5/14 Mother's Day*
- 5/15 Deadline for Mayflower Notes*
- 5/15 Prudential Council - Noon*
- 5/20 Spring Clean-up Day 9 a.m.*
- 5/21 Music Sunday and Picnic*
- 5/29 Memorial Day - Office closed*

*Head Usher
Lois Ries*

*Outreach Focus
Food Bank*



From The Pastor's Desk

Dr. Rick Martin

New Growth of Spring

Spring in Michigan, it is a wonderful time of the year. The piles of snow have vanished revealing the brown grass and bear trees. Then suddenly, green starts to appear; in the front lawn, in the fields on the drive to work, on the trees as buds appear and flowers start to sprout up. Nature comes to life and new growth is seen everywhere.

At times, we find that we have drifted into the winter of spiritual coldness. As we look around, all we can see are piles of dirty, grey snow and feel the subzero temps of spiritual coldness that chills the bones. The death of a loved one, the loss of a job, the busyness of life that has taken us away from church and Christian friends, prayers that have seemingly gone unanswered, and the 'whatnots' of life have slowly moved us into the winter of spiritual coldness.

However, unlike Michigan's winter, where we have to wait until spring arrives and the temperature warms and nature springs with new growth – all outside of our control to change anything; we have control in the new growth of our spiritual spring. By turning our attention to Jesus instead of constant focus on the mountain of problems. By spending more time with God through Bible reading and prayer, church participation and Christian fellowship. By trusting God and persistent prayer until the answers come to pass. By thanksgiving and praise when the grey snow mounds abound. By being more God-conscious in the face of our sin-conscious and troubled world. Look! The green stems of flowers are pushing up through the snow. The new growth has begun.



Hebrews 12:1,2

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

From the Lay Leader

You all probably know by now that I am the Mayflower Tuesday morning secretary. Sue Mott and Lorraine Finison do the actual secretarial stuff at other times, Linda Wheeler does finances, and my speciality is doing those things that "ought to be done sometime." Lately, I organized our selection of greeting cards, and I have contacted the sources of our junk mailings to try to get us off their mailing lists. I have also started to put new covers on our card tables. Which brings me to my public service announcement: much, if not all, of the damage to our card-table tops is done by the way they get stacked in the store room. Unlike books on the shelf, or our folding chairs, the card tables should NOT be stacked all in one direction. The trouble is that the legs of one can tear up the surface of the next if they get a chance. The way to protect the tops is to stack the tables with tops against tops and legs against legs.

On a lighter note, this time of year always has me thinking of my favorite kindergarten-type joke. If April showers bring May flowers, what do Mayflowers bring? The answer, of course, is Pilgrims. Feel free to pass it along.



Thrift Sale

Thanks to all who donated items for the thrift sale and/or worked in setting up, selling, and cleaning up! Proceeds will go to the church's general fund. We plan to have another sale as usual in late October, so start saving up your items NOW! A good way to do it is to have a box or bag in a closet or a corner of your basement or garage, and as you see things you don't need or want any more, put them there. Then you'll be ahead of the game when the time comes!





Spring Outdoor Clean-up Day

Spring Clean-up will take place on May 20th from 9 a.m. until noon. We will need all able-bodied folks to help. If you cannot make it on that day there is a sign-up sheet on the board for individual tasks you may want to do.

Prudential Council News

The Prudential Council authorized a contribution of \$500 on behalf of the congregation to Pastor Roman's faather. This will help them with many expenses associated with his cancer treatments.

7 Rules of Life

- 1 Make peace with your past so it won't screw up your future.
2. What others think of you is none of your business.
3. Time heals almost everything, give it time.
4. Don't compare your life to others and don't judge them. You have no idea what their journey is all about.
5. Stop thinking too much. It's alright not to know the answers. They will come when you least expect it.
- 6 No one is in charge of your happiness except you.
- 7 Smile. You don't own all the problems in the world.



	1	2	3	4	5	6
	8	9	10	11	12	13
Lunch and Learn After coffee hour				Handbells 4 p.m. Choir 5:30 p.m.		Second Saturday Supper 5 p.m.
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
Mother's Day	Deadline for Mayflower Notes			Handbells 4:00 p.m. Choir 5:30 p.m.		Yard clean-up 9 a.m.
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
Music Sunday End of the Year Picnic						
28	29	30	31			
	Memorial Day Office closed					

If April showers bring May flowers, we should be living in a veritable flower garden this year! I am glad the rain is done and the sun is finally beginning to shine.

In Matthew 13, Jesus tells the Parable of the Sower. A farmer goes out to sow his seeds. Some fall on the path, and are quickly eaten up by the birds. Some fall on rocky soil, and while they spring to life quickly, they soon wither and scorch in the hot sun, because they don't have the rich soil they need to thrive. Some fall into thorns, and start out fine but are soon overwhelmed and choked out by the thorns. Still others fall where the farmer intended, and they grow strong and tall.

The parable points out to us the importance of our foundation. Those who don't understand the message of Jesus are like the seeds thrown on the path - the knowledge is quickly gone with no time to take root. The seeds on the rocky soil are the people whose faith is new or not supported by others. Their faith may crumble when adversity or turmoil comes along. Those who grow among the thorns may start strong, but they are soon overwhelmed by the bad influence of the thorns around them, and may find their faith choked off. In order to flourish, we need a strong foundation of things that are good for us, and we need to keep the things that are bad for us at a distance. Although Jesus was talking specifically about sin and doubt, I think we all know our foundations require a lot of good things. Our bodies need good food, and rest, and exercise. Our spirits need activities that bring us joy, like happy relationships, and music or other arts, and things like crafts, or gardening, or whatever makes you happy. Our souls need to feel needed and loved, and that we belong and are valued, and for us to give back in gratitude for all that we have received. All the pieces need to be present to make our foundation complete - to allow us to grow and flourish as God intended.

We all know our soil is well-watered right now! Let's get out into our garden and make sure our crop is as healthy as it can be. You'll feel better and God will rejoice with you.

Liz



Music Notes

From Barb Fuller

I have often thought of how empty my life would be without celebrations. Fortunately, as a church musician I am never without the anticipation of one in the near future. I like to think that every Sunday is a day of celebration in that we, as Christians in the United States, have the freedom to meet each week to celebrate our beliefs. At Mayflower we do that by listening to the Word of God and praising him through our music. Each note played or sung by our musicians is done with the hope of inspiring you to connect further with your faith as the performing of it does for us.

I cannot deny that there are some days of the year we turn into larger celebrations as is the case with Music Sunday, celebrating the commitment of our Mayflower musicians. From now until May 21st we will continue to offer up meaningful anthems, but on the 21st we pull out all of the stops. We will once again engage our musicians in every way possible, having the handbells play, the trumpeters sound, and the choir sing the first movement of John Rutter's "Magnificat," a piece that only larger choirs tend to tackle.

As we enter into our summer worship the choir steps aside for a well-deserved rest, and our musical offerings become a little less formal with solos and small ensembles coming forth during the special music time. These are really mini celebrations as our music becomes a little more intimate. And yet, even though our choirs are not rehearsing during the summer months, the planning will have started for the fall in anticipation of celebrating our more formal coming together for Rally Day in September. And so the cycle continues, from one celebration to the next. Thank goodness I live a life of celebrating.



Mayflower Financial News

The March Second Saturday Supper was almost a sell-out, and we had a great profit of \$756. The Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner was also a sell-out and the profit was \$698. Great job, everyone! A special thanks goes to Liz Canfield for her hard work on the corned beef dinner.

We made quarterly transfers from our checking account to the Heat Fund (\$400) and to our savings account (\$10,000). See figures below.

As you may know, our 58-year-old water heater "died" on the morning of the Second Saturday Supper in March, and our plumbers, Shields & Sons, were here with a replacement within a couple of hours, allowing us to have hot water to do dishes at the supper. Further work to bring the venting system up to code was done on April 13. We don't have the bill yet, but it will be expensive. Several members have made special donations toward the cost; if you would like to join in, please do!

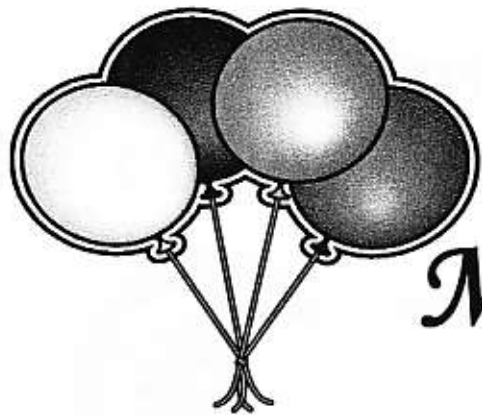
The following is a summary of our finances as of March 31:

Income:	\$ 12,596.57
Expenses:	<u>6,242.34</u>
	\$ 5,247.22
<u>YTD for Three Months:</u>	
Income:	\$ 27,331.11
Expenses:	<u>17,006.90</u>
	\$ 10,324.21
<u>Fund Balances:</u>	
Checking:	\$ 4,971.38
Savings:	41,022.34
Heat Fund Savings:	20,836.34
Memorial Fund CD:	5,501.01
Savings CD:	<u>22,329.99</u>
	\$ 94,661.06



A more detailed report is available in the brochure rack near the church office. If you have any questions, please ask!

— Linda Wheeler, Treasurer



May

Birthdays

- 5/1 Celila Snow (94)*
5/7 Linda Wheeler
5/18 Roger Kennedy
5/26 Bob Felter

Anniversaries

- 5/4 Mike and Mary Rutledge*
5/25 Chad and Liz Canfield

