

Mayflower Notes...

October 2009

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HOBON DINNER

October 18th promises to be a busy day. Filling the pulpit will be Elliot Winbush of Chicago who will be doing a presentation combining music and the Word. After the service Blanche is preparing another of her delicious Hobo Dinners. The Kennedy's will be showing their long-awaited slides of Europe immediately following the dinner. The cost will be \$7.



Special Collection

The church will be doing a special collection for the Adams' family during the month of October. Barb Fuller mentioned this family recently during Joys and Concerns. They have certainly experienced a lot of unfortunate circumstances during the last few years and need our help. Donations may be made through the church office. Indicate "Adams Family donation" on your check.



On Sunday October 11th...

there will be a dedication of the redecorated offices during worship, along with a pastor "appreciation" celebration during the coffee hour.



Catch the Mayflower spirit!



Dates to remember in October...



<u>October 10</u>	Second Saturday Supper
<u>October 11</u>	CROP Walk
<u>October 12</u>	Columbus Day
<u>October 18</u>	HOBON Dinner
<u>October 31</u>	Halloween



From the Pastor's Desk

Stability in a Shaky World

We live in an unstable world with a shaky economy. The guaranteed jobs and/or careers of past generations are sparse, if they exist at all. Who doesn't know someone who has been laid off and their unemployment benefits are about to run out – even with all the extensions? People who are working are taking pay cuts in some cases just to keep their jobs. Family incomes are tight. What used to be normal expenditures and now luxuries and rarely show up in the budget, since there is barely enough for the necessities. AND without warning, everything can change tomorrow going from bad to worse. No wonder Michiganans are depressed!

However, there is hope. No, not from the many, many promises of the politicians and/or powers that be. Been there, heard that, done that – and yet here we are. The hope is from One who has never lied and actually knows how to stabilize your shaky world in the midst of the storm. Jesus said in Matthew 7:24-27 (I'm paraphrasing here), "Order your ways according to My word and the storms of life will never destroy what you build. Order your ways by anything other than My word and the storms of life will wash everything away."

A life established on God's Word (the Bible) is stable, being built on a solid foundation – the rock. A life built on anything else is like building a house on Lake Michigan beach sand without a foundation. Both houses do well on a nice summer day and a gentle breeze whisper by and Lake Michigan is calm. The problem comes when the winds are howling and the rain is pouring and the waves are beating against the houses. The house on the foundation of the rock is going to weather the storm. The house build on the sand will soon be a pile of drift wood. The "cottages" on Lake Michigan have seen and will see many, many storms.

Thus is a life established on God's Word and a life built on anything else. The storms of life come to all. No one is exempt. Establish your life on the principles of God's Word (you will need to be reading His Word to find the principles) and not only will you weather the storms of life; you will find special benefit from having come through the storm. But that is for another article someday.

Mayflower Financial News

The Income and Expenses Summary for August 2009 is listed below. A more detailed report is available in the literature rack at church.

Linda Wheeler

August 2009

Income	
Contributions	4,938.00
Building Use	750.00
Flowers	90.00
Gift Donations	167.00
Interest Income	.01
Total Income	\$ 5,945.01
Expenses	
Wages (5 employees)	4,258.32
Employer taxes	171.48
Guest Organists	200.00
Mileage	97.02
Maintenance Inside/Outside	796.14
Utilities (gas, electricity & water)	198.57
Supplies (custodial, kitchen, office)	39.65
Church/Office	114.90
Bank Service Charge	2.07
Flowers	119.80
Furniture for pastor's office	120.00
Advent House	45.00
Total Expenses	\$ 6,162.95
Excess Income/Expenses	- \$ 217.94
Total Funds (savings & checking)	\$42,521.65



Head Usher

Naida Kenyon

Outreach Focus

Food Bank, Mitten Tree



Happy October! (Am I saying that already?)

We kicked off our Sunday School year in great style with a lock in. 8 kids, plus Ann, Linda, and I, ate too much, made lots of beautiful crafts, and had an intimate look at the sacrament of communion. Special thanks go out to Dr. Rick and Karen Nault for giving us an assist, and to Frank Williams for all those plywood boards!

We're starting this year off by dividing the kids into three classes - Lower, Middle, and Upper school. This will allow us to target our lessons better to our age ranges. On weeks with low attendance, we'll merge classes and flip a coin to see who gets to teach. Linda, Ann, and I have mapped out a rough plan for the rest of the calendar year, and we're studying the life and times of Moses for the first few weeks.

We're excited about our recent growth, and hope to offer lots of fun and spiritually enriching lessons for our youth. God has blessed us with an abundance of children lately, and I am grateful for the chance to impact their lives.

Liz



Just a reminder...

Ina is still recycling styrofoam for the church. She is willing to take small items that are brought in. However, she requests that we not bring in large packing pieves or "packing peanuts". Please remember these restrictions!

The Christmas "Shoebox Project" is alive and well again this year. We are looking for volunteers to wrap the empty boxes (no more boxes are needed at this time). The dates for filling the boxes and returning them to church will be available in the near future.



While Noreen and I were attending the National Association conference in Milwaukee this summer, we had an opportunity to attend "An Evening of Word Song with Pastor Elliot Wimbush". Pastor Wimbush combines his music with the Word into a program which is not only inspirational but entertaining as well. Rob also heard him at the HOPE Conference in July.

It is our hope to bring him to Mayflower to conduct our worship service while Pastor Rick and Barb are take a Sunday off to celebrate their anniversary on October 18th. I believe the Mayflower family will enjoy his music and be inspired by his message. Although Pastor Elliot's music is in the traditional Christian genre, he introduced his time with us at the conference by coming down the aisle with an African drum strapped to his side while singing an original song...

***Onto another topic: I felt I had pretty well covered the NA services which benefit Mayflower in my last "Notes" article. When I received a letter last week from the Michigan Conference of Congregational Christian Churches, which is also a part of the National Association. We also belong to this "august" body of churches. Some of their services include:

1. Michigan Congregational Church Camp (Morgan & Dominic attended this past summer)
2. Three retreats sponsored for the high school kids and Two retreats for the junior high kids each year. (In other words, grades 6 through 12 Pilgrim Fellowship) Rob is working to establish "Poofers" at Mayflower (nickname for Pilgrim Fellowship kids).
3. The Michigan Conference has a Pastoral Relations Committee which endeavors to serve our churches in several different ways (see brochure). They also have an annual Michigan Clergy Retreat each January.

Dave

