

Mayflower Congregational Church



2901 W. Mt. Hope, Lansing, MI 48911

Telephone: 517-484-3139

Fax: 484-3139

Web site: www.mayflowerchurch.com

e-mail: info@mayflowerchurch.com



Dr. Rick Martin

Pastor

*Dates to remember in
October. ..*

- 10/5 Food for Salvation
Army
Worldwide
Communion*
- 10/11 Second Saturday
Supper*
- 10/12 CROP Walk*
- 10/13 Columbus Day*
- 10/14 Trustees 10 a.m.*
- 10/15 Notes Deadline*
- 10/19 Prudential Council*
- 10/25 Iron Egg Weightlifting
Event*
- 10/26 Consecration Sunday*
- 10/31 & 11/1 Thrift Sale*
- 10/31 Halloween*



From The Pastor's Desk

Stewardship Campaign 2015



Yay! The first three Sundays in October focused on talking about giving money to Mayflower Church – no one ever said (except the pastor). It is true culminating with Consecration Sunday October 19th. Personally, I think we experience a annual miracle of God here at Mayflower: for three Sundays, we pray, review scripture about God's ideas of giving, hear personal testimonies, and raise next year's budget through personal pledges. To raise a year's budget in three week is a miracle to us from God! And He does it every year.

Our individual part in all this is: 1) pray (what do You want me to do in 2015), 2) research God's view on giving, 3) pray, 4) make a faith commitment (God, I will obey and give \$\$\$, if You will provide the means for me to do so), 5) pray. God will if you will – then we can move on to important issues like reaching people for the Kingdom of God and touching people's hearts for Jesus.

A great place to begin your research into God's perspective on giving is 2 **Corinthians chapters 8 and 9**. Two whole chapters on the subject of giving. I do not know of any other subject in the scriptures that has two chapters given to it. Thus it must be important to God for us to know this.

A couple of highlights: amount verses attitude. Although God has a specific amount in mind for you personally, no amount is mentioned in these chapters. However attitude is: for example, **9:7** *"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."* Wonderful promises are connected to giving with a godly attitude, **9:8**, *"And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."*

Pray – obey – enjoy the blessing of God. You will be blessed. Mayflower Church will be blessed. The Kingdom of God will be advanced. *"Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!" (9:15).*

As fall approaches we see many of its signs, like leaves turning color and squirrels burying nuts for the winter. But have you ever thought about the sounds of fall? We have school buses that roar up and down our dirt road. The peepers and bull frogs that were quite noisy at the pond in the spring and summer have fallen silent. We constantly hear the thud of walnuts falling from the black walnut trees in our back yard. The bird sounds are different as well. Migratory birds like the red winged blackbirds and robins are making their trek south again.

Speaking of sounds, we at Mayflower will soon begin to enjoy our new sound system yet this fall. We'll no longer have the snap, crackle and pop that we've grown accustomed to during our church services. That old sound system will be upgraded, taking advantage of current technology. Kim and Lorraine have generously donated the new mixing board which will allow the various mikes to be adjusted separately. This necessary piece of equipment will be housed in a new wooden cabinet at the rear of the sanctuary where Kim will be able to hear the output from the mikes and make adjustments accordingly. Costs have been further reduced by Kim who is providing much of the installation.

As a result of the savings, the total cost for the upgrade is \$5500, of which \$2000 has already been donated, leaving a balance of \$3500. Considering the positive effect this will have on Mayflower's ministry, the cost is quite reasonable. For instance, our services are recorded and posted on our website which receives many hits from around the world. The quality of this recording will be substantially improved by the sound system upgrade. Another benefit is that our hearing impaired folks will notice improved output through their headsets. And, choir folks will be able to hear the service better from the choir loft. Your donations to this worthy cause will reap benefits for many years to come.

Jerry Fuller
Lay Leader



Look A Little Deeper

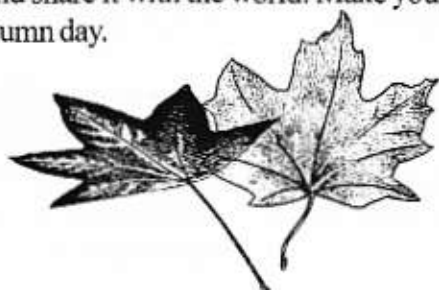
By Joseph J. Mazzella • September 2, 2014

It was the middle of August and I was looking out on the first red leaves as Summer gave way to Fall here in the mountains of my home. I knew that soon the forests would be awash in glorious colors painted by God's own hand. The yellow leaves would be shining like the sun above them. The golds would be gleaming like priceless jewels. The reds would be radiating joy to everyone who gazed upon them. The oranges would be blessing us with their beauty. The browns would be bringing us their earthy peace and wonderful smell. The burgundies would be hinting at the happiness all around us. And the wonderful combination leaves would be reminding us again of just how spectacular life can be.

As I gazed at my own reflection in the window I only wished that people could grow more colorful and beautiful as we aged too. At first my thinning, silver hair, sagging skin, and wrinkles all seemed to say no to this, but as I looked longer I began to think that maybe we could. As I saw the sparkle in my own eyes and light in my own smile I realized that perhaps God was just asking us all to look a little deeper beyond the surface and into our souls.

As I remembered all the people I knew in the last years of their lives almost all of them had a beautiful Autumn spirit about them. My Mom's loving, joyous nature shone brighter than a forest of red and yellow Maples. My neighbor Kai had a golden goodness in her heart that touched the lives of everyone she met. My Nana and Dad were both as sturdy and earthy as Oak trees and they freely shared their peace and happiness with the world.

The next time that you look at your own self then, look a little deeper. Look beyond your face, clothes and body. Look into your heart and soul. See the love that is there, thank God for it, and share it with the world. Make your life here as bright and beautiful as an Autumn day.



Thrift Sale

We are having another thrift sale October 31 and November 1 (Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.). Yes, we know it's Halloween! Please check around your house now to identify good, saleable things that you have but don't really need any more. Please have items clean and in working order or they don't sell well. Sometimes we have to throw things away--which we hate to do! If it's truly trash, just toss it out yourself. Kitchen items, jewelry, linens, books, clothes, and children's items are good sellers, but you never know what will sell. Remember, too, to invite friends, family, co-workers, etc., to donate items. We'll be glad to have them! Finally, be sure to plan on coming to shop yourself. You may find some treasures! We often say that we are our own best customers!

Plan to hold your stuff and bring it in after the Iron Egg Classic on October 25. 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 will be 10-Noon (or so) on Monday-Thursday (October 27-30). See Ann or Lorraine to volunteer to help.

Regular-size paper grocery bags are always needed for the bag sale time. You may bring them in any time.



From Chrisann...

5 Encouraging Bible Verses About Money That Everyone Should Know

This article is written by Bob Lotvich of the Huffington Post. I do not take credit for his good research and work. My thoughts are in italics. Just reading the scriptures thoughtfully is helpful; sometimes we forget the actual wording of a scripture.

He says: Let me start by saying that it was difficult to create this list. Think about it, I am trying to pick the best verses from the Bible about a particular topic. Are there really best verses, or are there just those that have impacted us more than others? I tend to think the latter.

(Chrisann continued)

So, this list is just that. These are 5 verses about money that, even as I just scratch the surface of understanding them, have revolutionized my financial life. Each one of them has had a strong impact on me during good times and during financial struggles as well. I hope you allow them to impact you as well.

1. Philippians 4:19 “And my God will meet all your needs according to his glorious riches in Christ Jesus.”

If you have lived much life at all, you are probably well aware that putting your trust in the economy, your employer, or your bank account is not a good idea. They are all fair-weather friends. They all can be helping you greatly one minute, and then the next everything has changed.

God, however is always faithful. That is why we should always be trusting Him as our supply! It doesn't matter if there is a financial crisis, if you get laid off, or your 401k loses 90 percent of its value, God will still supply your needs. Just like He promised.

The Reverend Verne Summers has spoken to us in the past. One of his favorite thoughts for me was when he said “Why pray when you can worry?” It is funny, but I did worry too much about an impossible future. Jesus tells us that if he takes care of the sparrow, certainly he will take care of us. How much more peaceful it is to lay our hearts on God's words that the words of the moneymakers.

2. Malachi 3:10 “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,’ says the LORD Almighty, ‘and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it.’”

It is a bold step of faith to start tithing. Cynics sometimes argue that tithing is not required in the New Testament. I actually agree, since our salvation is no longer based on works, but on faith in Jesus. But to be quite honest, as New Testament believers, 10 percent should just be a mile-marker on our giving journey. After all, God owns it all and no matter where we are as far as what we are giving, we should always be striving to give more. From my own personal tithing experience, I found that stepping out in Faith in this area and testing Him proved to be quite fruitful and yielded a pretty amazing testimony.

3. 1 Timothy 6:10 “For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.”

(Chrisann continued)

This verse is so often misquoted that it is almost laughable. Money is not evil. The love of it is. Having a million in your bank account doesn't mean that

(Chrisann continued)

you love it. Having \$5 in your account doesn't prove that you don't.

For example, Warren Buffett has billions in his accounts, but he is giving almost all of it away to benefit the lives of others. On the other hand I have heard stories of people getting killed over a matter of \$20. It is a matter of the heart that only God can judge.

Bill and Melinda Gates have a Foundation with Warren Buffet and they are faithfully working to not just give money away, but to help to find and solve survival solutions for others, such as clean water in Africa. One of Warren Buffet's sons makes this his lifework and a grandson is also actively involved. They have found truly meaningful work in the world.

4. Acts 20:35 **"In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"**

Giving sets us free, while hoarding entraps us (James 5:2). Giving changes the lives of others (John 3:16). Giving brings blessing back to us (Luke 6:38). Giving allows us to store up treasures in Heaven rather than here on the earth (Matthew 19:21). Giving really is fun — we need to be in on it.

Have you seen the shows about hoarding? They are really hard to watch, yes? Some of the houses have to come down, some of the people have to be moved out. Often, they still don't understand that they have a problem. Especially in our consumer society, we do not understand that we can do with far less than we have. Closets used to be much smaller. The society of Shakers just had two pegs on the wall: one for everyday clothes and one for Sunday clothes.

Jesus also tells us to care for the widows and orphans. Many quietly do this. There are angels among us.

5. Proverbs 22:7 **"The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender."**

The freedom of being debt free has always been so incredibly enticing to me that I have been willing to give up a whole lot in exchange for it. The last three plus years my wife and I have been diligently chopping away at it, passing up opportunities to spend as frivolously as some of our peers have done. Getting out of debt is not easy and often requires a fight, but the freedom that comes with it is so worth it.

This is a fight that I am fighting. It has been a two steps forward, one step back process. Progress is being made. I listen to Suze Orman for inspiration and tough love! Never give up!

Sincerely, Chrisann

Sound System Upgrade

Mayflower has embarked on an exciting and much-needed project, that of upgrading and updating our sanctuary sound system. This upgrade is critical in order to eliminate the current problems and restrictions, and to improve the quality and capabilities of the system. This project was originally begun with the first phase in October 2009. Now it's time to proceed with the final phases of this project, due largely in part to the recent issues with the sound system that have been cropping up more and more frequently (static discharge and loud clicks on a more and more frequent basis).

Kim Finison is leading the project in conjunction with Fred of Audio Arts (formerly DeWald Sound) and will be providing much of the labor involved in the installation. The major improvements being implemented, in addition to rectifying the static issues, are as follows:

1. Proper positioning of speakers and microphones will allow for more evenly distributed sound throughout the sanctuary. This will improve the recordings of the service which are put on the website and will allow everyone, especially those who use the hearing devices, to hear better.
2. The current sound system is a "closed" system, which severely limits its capabilities, meaning that nothing further can be added to the system (such as additional microphones) and no adjustments can be made for volume or tone. The new system will allow for additional microphones or devices which can be adjusted for both volume levels and tone.
3. Moving the system out of the music room and into the back of the sanctuary will enable adjustments as needed during the service or other event, which is not currently possible. You may have already seen the construction which is underway in the southwest corner of the sanctuary.

Some of the existing equipment can be utilized in the upgrade, so not everything has to be replaced. Some of the equipment and cabling for the project has already been donated (about \$2000 worth), but, of course, a project like this is an expensive undertaking that will need considerable financial support from the congregation. A total of about \$3500 more is needed to accomplish this project to improve our worship services and other events which occur in the sanctuary. We hope that you will make a commitment to support this project with your contributions.

If you have any questions, please talk with Kim. He'll also be providing regular updates on the progress of the upgrade during announcements.

Mayflower Financial News

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

Income:	\$ 7,010.10
Expenses:	6,300.44
	\$ 709.66

YTD for Eight Months

Income:	\$ 63,707.32
Expenses:	65,426.44
	- \$ 1,719.12

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 11,230.29
Bequest Funds Savings	4,009.74
Memorial Fund CD	5,494.01
CD Savings	22,303.51
	\$ 43,037.55

A more detailed report is available in the brochure
rack near the church office.

Linda Wheeler
Treasurer





October

BIRTHDAYS

- 10/19 Laura ANDERSON KEENEY
- 10/22 TIELER GRAHAM
- 10/22 TRACE GRAHAM
- 10/26 SARALU CHAMBERLAIN (94)

ANNIVERSARIES

- 10/7 CONLEY and CELIA SNOW (71 YEARS)
- 10/23 KIM and LORRAINE FINISON
- 10/25 MIKE and AMY GRAHAM
- 10/30 RICK and BARBARA MARTIN

HEAD USHER
Lois RIES

OUTREACH FOCUS
CROP Walk
SHOEBOX GIFTS

