

Mayflower Congregational Church



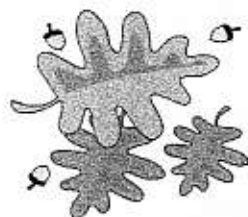
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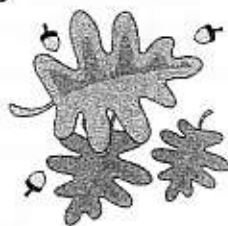
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**October
2016**

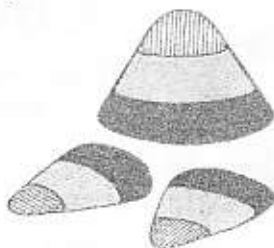


Dr. Rick Martin

Pastor

October

Birthdays

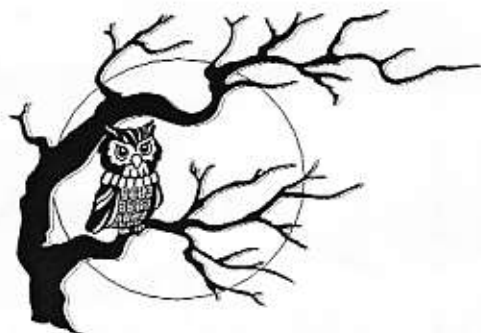


- 10/3 - Justin Stephens
10/19 - Laura Anderson Keeney (94)
10/22 - Tieler Graham
10/22 - Trace Graham
10/26 - Saralu Chamberlain (97)

ANNIVERSARIES

- 10/4 - Tom and Barb Rich (36 years)
10/23 - Kim and Lorraine Finison (23 years)
10/30 - Rick and Barb Martin (30 years)

Head Usher
Lois Ries



Outreach
CROP Walk and Shoebox Gifts

From The Pastor's Desk
by Dr. Rick Martin

October is upon us once again. Fall weather, football, tailgating, sweaters, Halloween, falling leaves, possibly our first snow fall, Barb and my 30th anniversary - lots of exciting things. One of the things I look forward to every October is the **Mayflower Church Annual Miracle**.

I'm talking about the 3 week Stewardship Campaign, where we look at God's financial promises, **pray** about the 2017 Mayflower budget and our part in it, and raise the budget for next year in just three weeks. We have no trust funds or multi-million dollar donations (I am not opposed to either), but simply God's people praying, working and giving **together**. That would be considered a miracle in any church, anywhere, by any pastor.

Us & God, working together, giving together and committing to the 2017 budget (necessary to keep Mayflower Church running smoothly next year). **THUS** we can focus on **BEING** the church: preaching the gospel, feeding the poor, clothing the naked, healing the sick, helping people, and being a blessing.

Jeremiah 29:11-12 NIV

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you."

Pray (& obey), join in, give, be involved (your church experience is far better if you are participating). Come and be a part of the wonderful things God is doing at Mayflower Church. It truly is amazing.

I am proud to be the pastor of such a wonderful bunch of people as YOU.



Mayflower Financial News

The following is a brief summary of our finances as of August 31, 2016:

Income:	\$ 5,187.00
Expenses:	<u>5,781.43</u>
	- \$ 594.43

YTD for Eight Months

Income:	\$ 61,971.77
Expenses:	<u>47,263.48</u>
	\$ 14,708.29

Fund Balances:

Checking:	\$ 9,372.74
Savings	21,017.53
Heat Fund Savings	17,853.00
Memorial Fund CD	5,498.35
CD Savings	<u>22,315.05</u>
	\$ 76,056.67

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

Linda Wheeler
Treasurer



Christian Education Thoughts

I, like many of you, have lots of ways I communicate. I have three email addresses, two cell phones and a home phone. I text, use Facebook and Snapchat, Apple Messenger, Google Calendars. I communicate to my husband when I am happy with hugs, foot rubs, and strange bursts of song. I make two kinds of coffee each morning (one for Maggie and one for Chad) and if they don't get I am communicating my love that way, we need to have a sit-down!

Prayer is another form of communication - a special one we share with God. It feels one sided because He never directly responds, but prayer is as real and meaningful a form of communication as any email or text. Communication is important to keep any relationship strong and on track, and therefore prayer is very important in our daily lives. Too often, though, we only pray when we are asking for something, and the more unrealistic or impossible it seems, the harder we pray! Can you imagine, though, if the only communication you ever got from your loved ones was demands to fix things? If your texts were full of complaints about all the problems in your life? If your Facebook status only showed the misery you see every day? Pretty soon everyone would dread hearing from you.



It's important to communicate with God regarding the positives, too. Give thanks for the wonderful things in your life. Ask God to help someone else - and don't ask for anything for you. Praise Him for the beauty of a crisp fall day, the taste of a cold glass of milk, or the sound of rain on the rooftop. Checking in with God in joy and not just in sorrow helps your relationship, and helps you keep perspective when things feel overwhelming. So take a minute and drop a line to God through prayer - you'll both appreciate it.

Liz

Thrift Sale

Thrift Sale

We are having another thrift sale October 28 and 29 (Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.). Please check around your house to find good, saleable things that you have but don't really need. 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 Consecration Lunch on October 23. We also need a lot of help (both men and women!) 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 24-27). See Lorraine or Ann to volunteer to help.

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



Mayflower Heat Fund

As you read last month, the Trustees have been getting bids on replacing all of the Mayflower heating units, and they have raised the goal of the Mayflower Heat Fund to \$30,000. And of course the real goal is to be able to pay for new heating if (when!) our old machines suddenly expire. Thanks to your generosity, we are getting there!

Music Notes from Barb Fuller



Jerry and I own ten acres of land just northeast of Wacousta, eight of which we rent to a neighbor to grow alfalfa on. Our son and daughter-in-law own the twenty-some acres to the north of our place and they, too, let the neighbor plant alfalfa.

If you remember, last summer was very wet and our farmer was only able to get two cuttings off from the alfalfa. Apparently even though alfalfa grows quickly, you must have at least four dry days in a row to harvest it. The first day is for cutting, the second and third are for drying and raking it into rows, and the fourth is used to bale it and tuck it away in a sheltered area.

This summer our farmer has been able to harvest three cuttings of alfalfa due to the lack of rain through most of it. He uses part of our implement shed to keep it in and comes by throughout the year with his tractor to retrieve the bales as his horses and cattle need it. It's a lovely process, it really is.

Our neighborhood is usually quiet and serene, so on the days when the alfalfa is harvested there is a lot more activity. The loud, constant hum of the harvester creates a steady rhythm on the acreage, the strong aroma of freshly-cut alfalfa permeates the air, and my heart feels a stronger connection to the land – one that I did not feel when we lived in the city. On those days I find myself humming the old hymn "Bringing in the Sheaves," and I am humbled to be living in what Jerry and I refer to as "paradise."

Sowing in the morning, sowing seeds of kindness,
Sowing in the noon-tide and the dewy eve;
Waiting for the harvest, and the time of reaping,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

Sowing in the sunshine, sowing in the shadows,
Fearing neither clouds nor winter's chilling breeze;
By and by the harvest, and the labor ended,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

Going forth with weeping, sowing for the Master,
Tho' the loss sustained our spirit often grieves;
When our weeping's over, He will bid us welcome,
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves.

What's happening in
October...

10/2 Worldwide Commun-
-ion

10/8 Second Saturday
Supper 5 pm

10/9 CROP Walk

10/11 Trustees 10 am

10/15 Deadline for Notes

10/16 Prudential Council
noon



Head Usher

Lois Ries

Outreach Focus

Food Bank