

Mayflower

Mayflower Congregational Church - September, 2009



Hope you had a wonderful summer! At 2345 Robinson Road we're very excited about fall at Mayflower. Our **Festival Sunday Kick Off is on September 13th.** Also on September 13th we begin our new 9:00 a.m. Worship Service called *Genesis: A Place to Begin a New Week.* Midweek@Mayflower has also had a menu makeover and two new Adult Classes. **Midweek@Mayflower begins on September 16th.** Our sermon series this fall will be *Your Next Step? Life Lessons and Strategies from Jesus' Parables.* See you in church!

FALL KICK OFF DATES:

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Sermon Series: Your Next Step?

Lessons and Life Strategies from Jesus' Parables

Genesis: 9:00 a.m. Worship Service — *The Place to Begin a New Week*

Join us for our new service which will have a variety of music and a sermon.

Bible Alive/Sunday School

Bible Alive for 1st-4th graders and Sunday School for 2 year olds through kindergarten begins during the 10:30 a.m. worship service.

Worship Connection — Discussion groups for 5th-8th graders begin

Festival Sunday

On this Sunday we will celebrate the start of our fall season, including a church picnic following worship which will have games for the kids and great food.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

Midweek@Mayflower Begins

Choir Rehearsals

Children's Choir rehearsals begin for 4 year olds through 5th grade (see schedule on page 2). Chancel Choir rehearsals also begin at 7:30 p.m.

Buffet Supper — Served from 5:30-6:30 p.m. with new menus

Adult Classes — *Your Next Step?* and *The Soul Café*

3,4,5,@5:45 — 3rd-5th Grade Youth Group with games and activities

Children's Activities and child care available 4:30-7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

Sunday Night Live

SNL parent meeting at 7:00 p.m. to kick off the Sunday Night Live program for middle school and high school youth which begins on October 4.

Join us for a great fall at Mayflower!

Mark Barger Elliott
Senior Pastor

Habitat Project Continues



Mayflower Church and Universal Forest Products Inc. are jointly working with Habitat for Humanity of Kent County to build a home for the Karla Parker family at 1947 Jefferson SE. Karla is a single parent with six children.

Many thanks to all who have already signed up to work on our Habitat for Humanity project. Please check the sign-up boards across the hall from the church office to see how you can help with the project.

We need volunteers on September 1st for painting and on September 2nd, 3rd, 8th and 9th for trim carpentry. You can sign up on the boards across the hall from the church office.

You can view photo updates at: www.mayflowerchurch.org/habitat

More Inside:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| Bible Alive..... | page 2 |
| Bibles for 2nd Graders..... | page 2 |
| Church Family News..... | page 2 |
| Nursery News..... | page 2 |
| Eden Village Child..... | page 3 |
| Meet the Frys..... | page 3 |
| Fellowship Teams..... | page 3 |
| 50's Drive In..... | page 3 |
| Discoverers in September..... | page 3 |
| Fall Music Opportunities..... | page 4 |
| Small Group Opportunities..... | page 4 |
| September Calendar..... | insert |
| September Birthdays..... | insert |



Bible Alive starts on September 13. *People of Faith* is the theme for the year and the first story is that of Abraham and Sarah. God called Abraham and Sarah and all their descendants into a special relationship as people of God. God promised to be with them just as God is with us today. Workshops in this unit are story, art, cookery, games/music, and science.

More information, including a schedule for this unit will be emailed to families with children in these grades. Check the pew pockets for general information and a calendar of the year for Bible Alive.

It's a King Thing Thank You!

Thanks to all the teachers, helpers, and puppeteers who helped get us all excited about the kings and queens of the Bible this summer.

- ♦ David Adams and Gina Kuyers
- ♦ Lynn, Auden, and Brendan Barger Elliott
- ♦ Allison and Natalie Bradshaw
- ♦ Amy, Terri, and Jack Conway
- ♦ Rhonda, Dan, and Kate Geller
- ♦ Jennifer Hendrick
- ♦ Andrea Koster
- ♦ Amanda Millwood
- ♦ Courtenay Oosterman
- ♦ Susan Orban
- ♦ Audrey and Owen Pyper
- ♦ Kris, Madeleine, and Matt Wilson
- ♦ Bill Wondergem
- ♦ Leah, Jason, and Gabi Zawodny

Bibles for 2nd Graders

The Christian Education Committee will be presenting Bibles to 2nd graders in 10:30 a.m. worship on September 20. Parents of 2nd graders will be receiving a letter with more details. If you are the parent of a 2nd grader and have not received a letter by Labor Day please contact the church office as soon as possible.

Also, if you have recently begun attending Mayflower and have a 3rd or 4th grader who would like a Bible please contact Paula Gaylord, our Christian Education Director. Our Bible Alive classes will be using these Bibles in class.

Church Family News

Congratulations to:

- ♦ **Ruth Lobbestael and Shaun Shira**, who were married at Mayflower Church on August 8, 2009.
- ♦ **Jason and Katie Israels**, whose son, **Jack Harper**, was baptized at Mayflower on August 9, 2009.
- ♦ **Michael and Lisa Winks**, whose son, **Samuel James**, was also baptized at Mayflower on August 9, 2009.
- ♦ **James and Leslie Papp**, whose son, **James Kristopher**, was baptized at Mayflower on August 30, 2009.

We express our sympathy to:

- ♦ The family of **John Dexter**, who passed away on August 17, 2009.

Nursery Thank You's

Even though we often combined the 2's and 3's this summer and even though we usually had 2-3 paid child care workers each week, we did need additional help are very grateful for the summer volunteers: Jack Conway, Leslie Druke, Barbara Hohman, Ingrid Nelson-Timmer, Courtenay Oosterman, Susan Orban, Vince Rogers, Jack Ruppert, Emily Smith, Matt Wilson.

3, 4, 5 @ 5:45

The 3rd-5th grade youth group begins on Wednesday, September 16 at 5:45 p.m. in Youth Room A. Come and:

- ♦ Catch up with your old friends and meet new friends
- ♦ Have fun with movies, games, skits, discussions
- ♦ Discover what our theme for the year is

4 and 5 Year Sunday School

Sunday School for 4's and 5's/K groups will be hearing Bible stories from the Old Testament in the fall.

Being in the 4 year old class is a big change from being in the 3 year old nursery so we are inviting 4 year olds and one or both parents to a brief orientation in Room 115 at 9:45 a.m. on September 13. Parents of 4 year olds will be receiving a letter with more details after Labor Day. If you have questions please call Paula Gaylord.



Beginning September 13 our nursery in Room 114 will be open at 8:45 a.m. for infants-preschool for families attending the 9:00 a.m. Genesis worship service.

September 13 is the beginning of the program year and the day when 2 and 3 year olds may go to their new rooms. Parents are invited to take their children to these new rooms, and stay, if necessary, until their children feel comfortable in the new space.

At 10:15 a.m. Room 217 will be open for 2 year olds (children turning 2 by December 1, 2009) and Room 216 will be open for 3 year olds (children turning 3 by December 1, 2009 and toilet trained).

We request that parent(s) or an adult designated by the parent(s) sign-in their children, leave written instructions regarding any special needs/allergies, and either take a pager or indicate where on the premises they may be found if needed.

Our childcare workers this year are:

- ♦ Hope Dombrowski, currently taking classes at GRCC, in the nursery (room 114)
- ♦ Rebecca Kirk, a 4th year student at Aquinas, in the 2's room (217)
- ♦ Bridget Hibler, a sophomore at Aquinas, in the 2's room (217)
- ♦ Abigail Hoekzema, a senior at GVSU, in the 3's room (216)
- ♦ Meghan Brasser, a freshman at Calvin, where needed
- ♦ Helena VanEek, a 4th year student at Calvin, a sub when needed

Each room needs to have a current information sheet for each child.

Pagers are available to parents of children in the nursery and the 2's room.

We still need volunteers, probably one each week to be where needed. If you are interested in volunteering to help in our nurseries, please contact the church office.

Evermore Tagwireyi Makufa



Evermore is 8 years old. During her young life she and her little brother have been deserted by their father and a year later by their mother. Both have disappeared. The children were with grandparents who were unable to care for them and passed on to a teacher at Eden Village.

The teacher and her husband are willing to take them in with their own children, but with the economy and political situation in Zimbabwe, they are unable to care for their needs financially.

Eden Village has been asked to provide food, clothing, medical care, and education for Evermore and her brother. They are doing so, but a sponsor for Evermore is desperately needed. Are you that person who can provide a stable healthy life for this little one?

Evermore is attending Eden Christian Academy where she has learned to speak English and is making progress in her schooling. If you can provide the help she needs, contact Linda at 949-6356 or larks@i2k.com.

Meet the Frys

Kevin and Susan Fry, who started Eden Children's Village in Zimbabwe, Africa a little over 10 years ago will be in Michigan in October. Their love of God and his little ones has saved the lives of hundreds who had no hope—providing health care through their clinic, nutrition programs, shelter and education.

On **October 24**, they will be attending the Mayflower Fall Family Hoedown at the Martin's Highlander Farm.

On **October 25**, Kevin and Susan will participate in morning worship and present their DVD of Eden Children's Village in the atrium.

October 17th they will make a presentation on Eden Children's Village at the annual meeting for the Michigan Conference of Congregational Christian Churches.

Mayflower's generosity has supported this wonderful village through Christian Outreach, special projects and child sponsorships almost from its beginning. What a blessing to be able to share our many gifts with the "least and lost" children of Zimbabwe.

Annual Chicago Shopping Trip

On Saturday, November 14, launch the holiday season with a bus trip to Chicago and famous Michigan Avenue. Leaving at 7:30 a.m. and returning at 10:30 a.m., the cost is \$30 per person. There are 50 seats available on the coach with rest room and video players.

Call the church office with your reservation and/or send a check for the cost. You can shop, visit friends, go to the museum or planetarium. It's great fun.

The Bridge



The Bridge is our new Sunday morning program for 5th-8th graders. Its focus is on helping children to bridge the transition between Sunday School and worship. Our goal for 5th-8th grade youth is to prepare them to be a part of our worshipping community by equipping them with the skills, knowledge and understanding they need in order to participate fully in worship.

The schedule for September can be found online at:

www.mayflowerchurch.org/bridge

50's Drive-In Dinner Youth Fundraiser



Cruise your chariot on in to the Mayflower parking lot on

**Sunday,
September 27
5:00-7:00 p.m.**

and you'll be taken back in time to a 50's Drive-In with burgers, dogs, chips, pop and root beer floats! You are welcome to bring a chair or blanket and sit on the hill for a picnic if you would prefer.

All proceeds go to the Youth Outreach Fund. Thanks for your support and we look forward to a swell evening!

Fellowship Teams

Mayflower's Membership Committee is promoting Fellowship Teams as a way to involve members in the life of the church family. Each team will be comprised of a cross-section of the membership and will participate for a specific time period during the year. Families will be notified prior to their assigned time period. Some of the Fellowship Team Opportunities are:

- ♦ Greet worshipers before the Sunday service
- ♦ Greet at the Welcome Center before and following the Sunday service
- ♦ Provide treats to be kept frozen at church ready for Coffee Receptions
- ♦ Be on call to prepare a meal for a church family who would welcome one
- ♦ Perform random good deeds within the church. Suggestions are welcome.

For more information on how you can become involved in this ministry, contact Murry Idema at 243-2764 or email her at pidema@comcast.net.

You Can Be a Discoverer!

Members and friends of Mayflower who are in the over 60's segment of life are invited to get together monthly for a delicious meal, good conversation, an occasional program, and an enjoyable bit of life.

To begin the fall season we will meet on September 16 at 10:30 a.m., travel to Hickory Corners and the Gilmore Car Museum. Gather for lunch in George & Sally's Blue Moon Diner.

Let the memories role as you view the cars of yester year. Entrance fee is \$8.00 and it's a low cost sandwich, dessert and beverage. Contact the office by Monday, September 14 to make your reservation.

Radio City Christmas Spectacular

Monday, November 23, the famous Rockettes will be at Van Andel Arena for another spectacular program. About 50 folks from Mayflower attended last year's event.

Tickets are \$60.50. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Britcher A.S.A.P. No reservations will be made until at least 10 people are interested.

Make Music a
Part of Your Life



Mayflower Music Department Fabulous Fall Opportunities

Women's Chorus

We will again be having a Women's Chorus for Mayflower Festival Sunday, September 13 at the 10:30 a.m. service. We will rehearse on **Wednesdays, September 2 and 9 at 7:00 p.m.** in the choir room. Please contact Coby Martin at 874-1710 for more information.

Children's Choirs

Children's choirs will rehearse on

Wednesday afternoon/evening beginning September 16.

- ◆ **Children's Chorus** (4 year olds): 4:30-5:00 p.m.
- ◆ **Cantus Choir** (Kindergarten): 5:00-5:30 p.m.
- ◆ **Cherub Choir** (1st & 2nd graders): 6:00-6:30 p.m.
- ◆ **Carol Choir** (3rd - 5th graders): 6:30-7:15 p.m.

Youth Choirs

The Middle School and High School Choirs will rehearse on **Sunday evenings beginning October 4** with SNL/Choir parent meeting at 7:00 p.m. on September 20.

- ◆ **Chapel Choir** (6th-8th graders): 5:00-6:00 p.m.
- ◆ **The Christman Choir** (9th-12th graders): 6:45-7:45 p.m.

Adult Choir

The Chancel Choir (adults) will meet as before, on Wednesdays at 7:30-9:00 p.m., **beginning September 16.**

Handbell Choirs

The Handbell Choirs will meet as needed.

The choirs at Mayflower are open without audition to all those who desire to serve God through song!

Mayflower Preschool Events

Mayflower Preschool is kicking off its 41st year with many great events planned!

Please join us on **October 8th** for our **Fall Festival** to meet teachers and students, enjoy pony rides and much more.

October 13th we will be hosting motivational keynote **speaker Scott Greenberg**. One of the most sought after education speakers in the U.S., Scott combines solid content with humor, stories and interaction, creating staff development programs that entertain as well as educate. This will be a fantastic workshop for parents, educators and anyone who needs a boost!

Also, our annual Innisbrook **gift wrap fundraiser** is in full swing if you are interested in ordering gift wrap for the holiday season.

Please contact our preschool office for more information on any of these events.

Congregational Association Meeting

Please join Pastor Britcher and attend the West Michigan Association of Congregational Churches Fall Meeting on Saturday, September 26. Cost is \$10 and the group will leave Mayflower at 8:15 a.m. The meeting is at McGraft Memorial Congregational Church in Muskegon.

MAYFLOWER SMALL GROUPS

As the fall season gets under way, this is an excellent opportunity to find your place in one of Mayflower's small groups for Bible study, fellowship, support or service. Complete information on these groups can be found in the Mayflower Small Groups brochure, available in the literature rack in the lobby (or download from www.mayflowerchurch.org/smallgroups). Check to see what interests you!

Bible Study

| | | |
|------------------|------------|---|
| Monday | 8:00 a.m. | Morning Men's Bible GIG |
| | 9:00 a.m. | Young Women's Bible Study (child care provided) |
| | 5:00 p.m. | Businessmen's Bible GIG |
| Tuesday | 7:30 a.m. | Study of the Psalms—Open to everyone |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Retired Men's Bible GIG |
| | 7:00 p.m. | Texas Hold'em Bible GIG (1st and 3rd Tuesdays, beginning September 29) |
| Wednesday | 9:30 a.m. | Women's Neighborhood Bible Study (for women in the Lakeside Elementary School area) |
| | 6:15 p.m. | Adult Bible Studies—Open to everyone <i>Soul Café and Your Next Step?</i> |
| Thursday | 10:00 a.m. | Women's Bible Study |



Support Groups

- ◆ Caregivers Support Group
- ◆ Work Transition Support Group

Fellowship Groups

- ◆ The Discoverers for senior citizens of Mayflower or their friends, meeting monthly for lunch
- ◆ Fellowship Teams, promoting fellowship through greeting before and after worship, treats for coffee receptions and meals for families.

Service Groups

- ◆ Friendly Visitors, making contact with homebound and elderly members
- ◆ Dégagé Ministries monthly service group, serving the Heartside neighborhood
- ◆ Interfaith Hospitality Network, serving homeless families
- ◆ Stephen Ministry, standing by those going through personal or family crisis.