

Mayflower

Mayflower Congregational Church - February, 2010



Dear Mayflower Members and Friends,



Lent is an extraordinary time in the life of the church. It is a season of renewal and discovery. A time of faith exploration and spiritual reaffirmation. Our theme is *The Me I Want to Be* and we invite you to experience *40 Days to Become God's Best Version of You* through worship, study and outreach. Below you will find a list of opportunities and possibilities.

- ◆ February 17 Ash Wednesday Service at 6:30 p.m.
- ◆ February 21-March 21 Sunday Sermon Series:
5 Life Giving Habits 4 Challenging Times
- ◆ February 24-March 31 Wednesday Lenten Study Series
The Me I Want to Be at 7:30 a.m. and 6:15 p.m.
- ◆ March 20 Morning of Renewal (for women and men)
at Gilda's Club, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- ◆ March 28 Palm Sunday Worship
- ◆ April 1 Maundy Thursday Service at 7:30 p.m.
- ◆ April 2 Good Friday Service at 12:00 p.m.
- ◆ April 4 Easter Worship at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

See you in Church!

Mark Barger Elliott
Senior Pastor



IHN / Family Promise — February 21-28, 2010

Mayflower will host Interfaith Hospitality Network / Family Promise the week of **February 21-28**. Mayflower has supported this ministry since 1997 and is part of a network of area churches that provide safe and secure temporary shelter for 3 to 5 families for one week at a time on a rotating basis 12 weeks a year. We invite you to join us in this worthy outreach ministry.

"God is in the slums, in the cardboard boxes where the poor play house....


God is with us if we are with them...Stop asking God to bless what you're doing.

Get involved in what God is doing -- because it is already blessed." —Bono

You can help by volunteering to do set up, tear down, or laundry duties. You can volunteer to provide grocery supplies, an evening dinner or Saturday brunch. Be an overnight host, driver or play volunteer. If you are interested in signing up to help during the week, please contact Beth at the church office by calling 459-6255 or by e-mail at bshimko@mayflowerchurch.org, or you may sign up in the atrium.

God is with the vulnerable and the poor, serve the Lord with all your heart.





Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 17, this year. Devotions for families with children between the ages of 4 years and 4th grade will be mailed out the week of February 7. Devotions for the rest of the church family will be available in the narthex beginning February 14.

Outreach Opportunities for Lent

During the forty days of Lent the Christian Outreach Committee is inviting members to become personally involved in a Christian service project. In addition to participating in IHN rotations and helping with Dégagé meal service, we have identified four organizations that have a wide variety of opportunities that span age groups and abilities. They are:

- ◆ Kids Food Basket
- ◆ Feeding America (Second Harvest Gleaners)
- ◆ Habitat for Humanity (not only construction labor)
- ◆ YWCA Domestic Crisis Center

More detail will be forthcoming in the form of poster boards or fliers. The first three mentioned each have a web site describing the opportunities for service

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Bible Alive

Bible Alive (1st-4th graders) will be finishing up the stories of *Daniel in the Lions' Den* and his friends, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the Fiery Furnace. We hope these stories will inspire and encourage us to be faithful to what God calls us to be and to do. The children compiled a list of what God wants us to do, or God's rules:

- ◆ Respect God
- ◆ Treat others like you want to be treated
- ◆ Be friends
- ◆ Obey God and Mom and Dad
- ◆ Don't be mean
- ◆ Stand up for what is right for ourselves and for others
- ◆ Do what we know is right
- ◆ Listen to God
- ◆ Don't be jealous/don't want what other people have
- ◆ Don't take what is not yours
- ◆ Don't kill
- ◆ Don't cheat
- ◆ Don't lie
- ◆ Don't do what you know is not right

They also knew why we should follow God's rules:

- ◆ To have a good life
- ◆ To be happy
- ◆ To live the best way
- ◆ Because God loves us

Bible Alive "Daniel" workshops in January included:



stories,



games,



science, where God "burns up" our sins,



so there is no residue,



walking like Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego through the fiery flames,



and music, making up our own rap about the fiery furnace.

Church Family News

Congratulations to:

- ◆ **Sonja and Andrew Johnson**, on the birth of a son **Evan Alexander**, born January 10, 2010.
- ◆ **Matt and Jamie Riley**, whose son, **Jake Robert**, was baptized at Mayflower on January 10, 2010.

5th Grade Bridge Discussion Group

In January the 5th grade *Bridge* discussion group reviewed their knowledge of the Bible and the church calendar with games and they heard about the role of all the people that make worship possible—acolytes, ushers, choir/music, fellowship teams. In February they will be talking about Lent, prayer, and reviewing what they know about communion.



Get Into the Word

A new men's Bible study group is on the horizon. Exact day and time will be determined as soon as gentlemen make their interest known. It will probably be toward the end of the week, possibly an early morning gathering.

Please call (340-9988) or email (hmatthews28@comcast.net) Harry Matthews if you would like to be part of the group.

Caregivers Alert

The monthly meeting of the Caregivers Support Group is Monday, February 22.

If you are responsible for the direct care of a loved one, or the supervision of such care, this group is especially for you. Marilyn DeHorn will host us in the Parlor with refreshments as the conversation begins.

Join us at 10:00 a.m. for an hour or so of sharing, learning and prayer.

Will You Sponsor this Child?



Princess Ropafadzo Moyou arrived at Eden Children's Village on November 9, 2009. Princess was abandoned at a bus stop in Raffingora where she was found on July 30,

2009. The person who found her took her to the local police station. She was then taken to the hospital where she stayed for her first four months.

Princess is a very healthy child and has been placed at Eden Village's Mhangura 4th Street house.

Hopefully there is a family at Mayflower who would start the new year by sponsoring Princess and providing her with the security, education and health she needs. If you are that family, please call (949-6356) or email (larks@i2k.com) Linda.

Thank You to Mayflower Youth from Eden Children's Village!

Thank you so much for the clothing drive that you did for Eden Children's Village. The clothes arrived on the container, have been sorted and distributed. The children and staff at Eden Children's Village would like to communicate to you just how much your hard work means to us. We literally would not have enough clothes for everyone if people like you did not help.

May God bless you richly!

Susan J. Fry,
Child Sponsorship Coordinator Eden Children's Village

New Flag



Several months ago, during a very windy storm, the American flag at Mayflower was blown off the flagpole and never found. Now that a new rope has been installed on the pole, a new flag has been given by the Krupp family: Dawn, George, Christian, Susie and Carly.

Our thanks to the Krupps for their patriotic and giving spirit!

Special Evening at Dégagé

On Monday, February 1, the confirmation class (15 members) will join with the serving adults to make a great evening of food and fun for the Dégagé patrons.

Confirmands will do Bingo, sitting with the patrons and helping them with their bingo cards. They will also have a tour of the facilities. Adults, please notify Pastor Britcher if you are planning to serve.

Stephen Ministers Meeting

On Thursday, February 25, the regular Stephen Ministers meeting will be in the Parlor at 7:00 p.m. Remember to bring your book, *Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart*, and read chapters 10 through 12.

Pastor Britcher is the leader with devotions by Linda Conway and refreshments provided by Tolly Stiffler.

Thanks for Mitten Tree Donations!

A BIG thanks to all who contributed to the Priscilla Circle Christmas Mitten Tree.



Ninety mittens, gloves and hats and several children and baby items were collected. These items will be given to *In The Image* for children in need.

Earn Money for IHN

You can earn money for Mayflower IHN (Interfaith Hospitality Network) by shopping at any D&W Fresh Market between **February 14-20, 2010**.

Simply give the cashier the Mayflower Church code, **94686**, and 2% of your total purchase will be credited to the Mayflower IHN Outreach program. It's that easy!

Church School for 2-5 Year Olds



4 year olds made a prayer cube to help them remember all the things we can pray about.



5 year olds made hearts to remember how much God loves them.

In February, Youth 5's and Kindergartners, 4 year olds and preschoolers, as well as 2 and 3 year olds will be hearing stories of Jesus' ministry—feeding the 5000, healings and calming a storm.

Sunday Service Flower Donations



Can you brighten the sanctuary by purchasing flowers for a Sunday service?

Flowers are a beautiful way to acknowledge a birth, baptism or anniversary, or to give in memory of a loved one. The flowers are yours to take home after the service. The cost is \$40 for either an arrangement on the communion table or two smaller arrangements on the pulpit and lectern.

To donate flowers, you may sign up on the chart in the church lobby on Sunday, call Beth in the church office at 459-6255, or email her at bshimko@mayflowerchurch.org.

The Chancel Choir Needs You!



Do you like to sing? Do you enjoy good fellowship and fun with others? Have you been looking for a way to be of more service to the church?

Look no further! The Chancel Choir is just the ticket. The choir needs additional singers in all voice parts, especially sopranos, tenors and basses (altos are always welcome, too). There is no audition. You don't have to be able to read music like an expert. Prior choral experience is nice, but not necessary. You just need to enjoy singing.

The Chancel Choir meets every Wednesday, from 7:30-9:00 p.m., in the choir room downstairs, learning music from a wide variety of styles. Can't make it every Wednesday? That's OK. We rehearse 6-8 anthems per week, so if you miss one rehearsal, you can easily "catch up" at the next one.

We are currently preparing the anthems for Lent and Easter. February is Black History month, so this year all of the anthems during February come from the African-American spiritual genre. For our Easter service, we will once again be singing choruses from Handel's *Messiah*, with trumpets and tympani. Come and check us out. We'd love to have you join us!

A Luncheon from Heaven!

Well, the Discoverers will at least enjoy some heavenly food at the February gathering on Wednesday, February 10.

Luncheon will be homemade soups, bread and sandwich spreads by Mayflower's renowned chef, Bruce Tekautz. Just ask the retired men's Bible study members and the office staff! It will be 'out of this world' tasty.

A program by Tom Buetner will be a *Circus In The Parlor*, slide show on famous circuses. Meeting time is 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$7.00.

Please call (459-6255) or email (receptionist@mayflowerchurch.org) your reservation to the church office by Monday, February 8.

Men's Hockey Outing



A group of Mayflower men attended a Griffins hockey game on Sunday, January 17.

The Griffins lost, but the guys still had fun!

3,4,5@5:45 Youth Group

The 3,4,5@5:45 Youth Group (3rd, 4th and 5th graders) continues the theme of *Taking Care of What God Has Given Us*.

In January we talked about the word "epiphany," meaning revelation, as in God revealing himself to us in Jesus. We had an Epiphany party with cupcakes. The three children who found a piece of foil in their cupcakes became the three Kings and chose the rest of the cast to reenact the three wisemen following the star to find the Christ child.

You can see a video of their reenactment at: www.mayflowerchurch.org/345video.



Bill and Megan prepping the skit with the kids



Reading along with the story

In our prayers the 3rd, 4th, and 5th graders shared times when they felt God's presence.

We will continue to see ourselves and the world from God's perspective in the coming weeks.