

# Mayflower

Mayflower Congregational Church - May, 2010



## Dear Mayflower Members and Friends,

Over the past two years many wonderful and hardworking people have been working on what we are calling our *Forward in Faith 2000-2015 Strategic Plan*. This important work began with our 50th Anniversary Strategic Planning Committee and continued with four Task Forces that focused on the areas of Facilities, Program, Worship and Outreach.

Congregational input, many prayers, a Church Council retreat, and much thought and discussion have resulted in a document that your Council is excited to present for your consideration during our **Annual Meeting** after worship on **June 6th**.

I could not be more pleased with the amount of effort, creativity, and foresight that has gone into this document and truly believe it gives us a glimpse of where God is leading our church family over the next five years.

If your schedule permits, I invite you to stay after church on June 6th for a glimpse into our future!

Blessings,

Mark Barger Elliott  
Senior Pastor

## The Fifty Second Mayflower Congregational Church ANNUAL MEETING

**Sunday, June 6**  
**11:30 a.m.**  
**In the Church Sanctuary**

## Graduation Sunday



On **Sunday, May 16**, Mayflower Church will be honoring graduates in the morning worship service. If a member of your family is graduating from high school, college or university this year, please notify the office (459-6255) by **Monday, May 10**.

Your assistance is appreciated, especially for the post high school graduates. We will also acknowledge these important milestones in an upcoming newsletter.

## Bible Study Group Creates Cards



The Thursday morning Women's Bible Study group created beautiful cards for the Fellowship Teams to send cheer and caring thoughts to Mayflower members.

## Two Discoverer Opportunities

- ♦ **Wednesday, May 12** is the regular luncheon meeting with a little jaunt to Spring Lake and Jack's Restaurant. Reservations need to be made by Monday, May 10. Meet in the Parlor at 10:30 a.m. Bus transportation cost is \$2.00.
- ♦ **Wednesday, June 2** is the regular meeting, one week earlier than usual because we have reserved the Meijer Suite at Fifth Third Ball Park for a Whitecaps game. Lots of fun! Purchase your lunch in the suite! Enjoy sitting out on the balcony to enjoy the game! Watch it on TV if you'd rather! Reservations must be made by May 21st. Meet in the Parlor at 10:00 a.m. for departure on the church bus. Cost is \$10.00 per person plus your lunch.

## Sunday Morning Children's Programs

**Easter People** is the title of the *Bible Alive* story for April 11-May 9 and tells stories of people who were changed because of Jesus' Resurrection. 1st-4th graders will experience the mystery of how God changes us in Cookery, Science, Games and Art. The story is found in the Bible in the Gospel of John, chapter 20



1st graders making butterfly rings



"New Life" eggs from Cookery Workshop



4th graders in the Game Workshop playing "Fearless Leader"

Beginning May 16, and running through June 13, is the last Bible Alive story for this program year, **Peacemakers**. Being a peacemaker takes courage and skill. We will look at Bible stories about Jacob and Esau, Amos, Abigail and David, and at the Beatitudes.

**The 5 year/Kindergarten class made butterflies to symbolize the new life Jesus gives us.**



In May, Young 5's/Kindergartners, 4 year olds/preschoolers, and 3 year olds will be hearing stories of people whose lives were changed because of Jesus—stories of how the disciples were given a job to do and the power of the Holy Spirit to do work for God.

2 year olds will be hearing about how Jesus is like a Good Shepherd.

## Church Family News

### *Congratulations to:*

- ♦ **Lisa Northouse**, whose daughter, **Madison Jo Machala**, was baptized at Mayflower Church on March 14, 2010.
- ♦ **Randy and Lisa Lovell**, on the birth of twins, **Sydney Ann** and **Frank Raymer IV**, born March 26, 2010. Proud grandparents are **Ray and Susan Lovell**.
- ♦ **Matt and Cindy Cook**, whose son, **Colin Philip**, was baptized at Mayflower on April 18, 2010.
- ♦ **Sarah (Hammond) and Ryan Edwards**, on the birth of a daughter, **Claire Alyse**, born April 22, 2010. Proud grandparents are **Lorraine and David Hammond**.

### *We express our sympathy to:*

- ♦ **The family of Sarah (Sally) Zimmer**, who passed away on April 5, 2010.
- ♦ **Linda Chaffee and family**, on the recent death of her father, **Herman Miller**.

## Bridge Discussion Group

The last 5th grade Bridge discussion group was on April 18 as a review of the year and generating questions for Pastor Mark at the luncheon in Fellowship Hall at 11:30 a.m.



### **Are you smarter than a 5th grader?**

Here are the questions the 5th graders asked:

- ♦ In communion, why is the bread served first?
- ♦ Can you do confirmation at different ages?
- ♦ How old was Jesus when he rose from the dead?
- ♦ Why is "Easter" called "Easter?"
- ♦ What is the crossover with baptism and other religions?
- ♦ In the atrium, what is the big stone behind the waterfall?
- ♦ Why do we sing during church and when did it become a part of the service?
- ♦ Why does the date of Easter change every year?
- ♦ Why are Sundays not counted in the 40 days of Lent?

## Will You Sponsor this Child?



**Tariro Makosa** came to Eden Children's Village in Zimbabwe on January 12, 2010. Eden was contacted by a constable at the police station in Mhangura.

Tariro had been at the police station since the beginning of January because her parents had died and the police could find no living relatives to send her to. She now lives in Eden's house on 4th Street in Mhangura. Tariro was not sure when her birthday is, so we have selected January 11, 1999 as her birthday.

With only \$30 per month you could provide a stable, healthy life for this child. If you can give her the help she needs, contact Linda by email (larks@i2k.com) or at 949-6356.

## Eden Village Visitors

At the end of May, three Mayflower members will be flying to Zimbabwe for a working visit to Eden Children's Village. **Jon and Linda Lark**, together with **Jessica Mohrmann**, will head over for two weeks of work on new buildings. They will be using the brick making machine provided by Mayflower Christian Outreach several years ago.

A total of 15 folks are going on the trip. They fly by Ethiopian Airlines from Washington DC to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and then on to Harare, Zimbabwe. The Frys will pick them up and drive 65 miles on unpaved roads to the Village.

Linda can take one card/letter and picture from a sponsoring family if you would like to. Please give them to her **by May 18**. Hopefully, some photos and videos of our sponsored children will be possible.

Please pray for the group as they travel and work.

## Thanks to the March/April Fellowship Team

Fellowship Teams are organized to bring smiles, spread joy and share acts of kindness among the membership.

Our thanks go out to the March/April team:

Ruth and Gerald Barnes  
Shirley and Phil Battershall  
Kathleen Bulson  
Sue and Jim Defoe  
Marilyn DeHorn  
Sara and Neal Downer  
Leslie and Patrick Drueke  
Linda and Chris Edgar  
Barb and Ted Etheridge  
Jamie and Brian Farber  
Joan and Jim Fleaser  
Joyce and Nathan French  
Shari Graham  
Pat Hasenyager  
Avis and John Hewitt  
Susan and Brad Laffrey  
Linda and Jon Lark  
Lisa Northouse  
Katharina and Joerg Picard  
Cheryl and Brian Stephens  
Sue Stoddard  
Marian VanDore  
Heather and Ben VanHouten  
Gwen and Gary Wallin  
Ann Wells  
Jane and Stephen Wert  
Susan and George Whinery  
Carroll and John Wiener  
Kris and Tim Wondergem  
Sue and Ivars Zadvinskis

## IHN Spring Rotation – May 16-23, 2010



Recently, I had the opportunity to participate in an ACCESS Poverty Simulation Workshop designed to help participants understand what it might be like to live as a typical low-income family trying to survive from month to month. Participants assumed the roles of up to 26 different families facing poverty. The task of the "families" was to provide for basic necessities and shelter during the course of four 15-minute "weeks".

As Family Promise/IHN coordinator for Mayflower Congregational Church I hoped that this workshop experience would bring about an awareness and sensitivity to those living in poverty and help me better understand what our IHN guests face in their quest to secure permanent housing.

During the simulated "month" of poverty I learned how difficult it was to meet even our most basic of needs. "My family" had food only three days during the month. By the end of the "month" most participants felt overwhelmed and frustrated. "Families" who found themselves suddenly homeless were surprised that shelters were unable to provide lodging that would keep the family unit together. How agonizing. Did you know that Family Promise / IHN is one of the few shelters in town who focuses on keeping families housed together?

Family Promise / Interfaith Hospitality Network, is a non-profit, nondenominational program that engages the faith community to end homelessness in Grand Rapids a few families at a time. 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. This outreach ministry draws over 100 dedicated Mayflower volunteers each rotation.

Assuming the identity of a low-income family in a three hour poverty simulation workshop served as a powerful reminder; although this was an exercise for me, this is reality for so very many people in our community.

We invite you to please consider your personal response to meet the needs of our community – to the needs of these IHN families the week of May 16-23. You can help by volunteering to do set up, take 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.

Beth Shimko,  
Mayflower Church IHN Coordinator

## Climb Kili for Kids

Mike and Rachel Mraz, members of Mayflower Church, are planning on climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in September 2010 in an effort to raise money for the children at Eden Children's Village in Zimbabwe. They will cover 100% of the cost of the climb, but need your help to build opportunities for the children. After reaching the summit, they hope to travel to Zimbabwe to break ground for the new building that will be built from the money raised.

Go to [www.climbkiliforkids.com](http://www.climbkiliforkids.com) for more details and information on how to donate.

## 2nd Annual Mayflower Soap Box Derby—Sunday, May 23

The building of cars for the Soap Box Derby is off to a great start!

So far, there are six teams—two teams who are going to “refurbish” a car from last year and four teams are going to be building new cars from scratch.

Join us for a family picnic and derby race on Sunday, May 23 following worship.



## Mayflower Cleanup Day, May 8

It's that time of year again and lots of helpers are needed for Mayflower's annual Cleanup Day scheduled for **Saturday, May 8** from 9:00 a.m. until noon.

The cleanup will be both outdoors and indoors. Outside weeding gardens, trimming bushes, sweeping up winter dirt, planting flower, spreading beauty around the campus, inside washing pew backs, finding cobwebs, dusting corners, sprucing up restrooms, organizing kitchen.

Sign up sheets for workers are available in the atrium, parlor and narthex on Sunday or you may contact the church office, 459-6255, to indicate your willingness to help.

Coffee, juice and donuts always available. Can you give the church a couple of hours?

## Wednesday Bible Study

It's not too late to join in the study through the first Wednesday of June.

*Healing Choices* is the topic, a study of the Beatitudes. A DVD presentation by Rev. Rick Warren opens each study and then the discussion and discovery begins. Study guides are available.

Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. in the Library.

## A Pleasant Day Trip

A day trip to New Era and Shelby is on the drawing board for **Wednesday, July 28, 2010**.

Departing from Mayflower on the church bus at 11:00 a.m. the first stop will be in Whitehall for lunch and a brief walk around town.

Next stop is at New Era to tour the Country Dairy, with interactive displays, bottling plant, ice cream in the making, and the gift shop, followed by home-made ice cream.

Last stop is in Shelby at Cherry Point Farm & Market with lots to see and do, concluding with a 6:00 p.m. Fish Boil cooked over an open fire with redskin potatoes, onions and fresh whitefish.

If you are interested in the day trip, please contact the church office, 459-6255, as soon as possible so final details can be put in place.

Contact Pastor Britcher with questions.

## Mayflower Preschool Cookbooks ARE HERE!

Favorite Recipes  
from  
**MAYFLOWER  
PRESCHOOL**



### “Favorite Recipes from Mayflower Preschool”

are now available! Please visit either the church or preschool office to purchase for \$17 each and \$15 each additional copy. This cookbook has been a labor of love for the preschool council, and it is packed with over 450 favorite recipes from parents, teachers, church members, and friends of Mayflower.

Thank you again to all who kindly submitted recipes! Some of the recipes are treasured family traditions and others are new. However, they all reflect the love of family and good cooking!

These cookbooks make excellent gifts for all the cooks in your life and are perfect for Mother's Day!

## 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](mailto:bshimko@mayflowerchurch.org).



# May 2010 BIRTHDAYS

# Mayflower



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Larry Manning Tom Roth Jason Zawodny
2 Ginger Mohney Bob Rosema Judson Bennett Melissa Intoccia Kevin Mlttner	3 Elton VanPernis Wesley Uhl Hunter Hall Sam Werkema Evan Farber	4 Judi Essenburg Deb Larson Gabriela Zawodny	5 Harry Baxter Janyce Huff	6 Jim Musser Dina Masek Rieden McIntosh	7 Tom Jacobs Carol Beia Christian Krupp Gwyneth Adams	8 Tom Mittner Clay Bradshaw
9 Abbie Henningsen Kate Geller Timo Picard	10 Ferne Morgan David Balkema Scott Norris Cameron Meyer Gerhard Meyer	11 Bob Evenson Jessica Ruppert	12 Mark Webb Susan Laffrey Lucy Houlihan Ammon Mehney	13 Dave Hathaway Rebecca Robson Matt Cook Jeff Mapes Hugh Lachman	14 Jim Defoe Devin Ryan	15 Mary Barss
16 Hanna Meijer Lily Wing	17 Ila Flo Barfuss Shirley Battershall Shari Graham Rachel Mraz	18 John Mundell Carrie Mehney Abigail Joyce Erica Wolfe	19 Anne Stille	20 Deborah Crane Shawn Elkins Sonja Johnson Patricia Sundman Amy Fleming William Laffrey	21 Susan Billmeier Katie Meier	22 Coby Martin Walter Laidlaw Kim Belanger Ava Finzel Cole Miller
23 Nancy Wickman Benjamin Ruppert	24 Ron Willit Jason Piccard Jason Currie Amanda Wickman Molly Wickman	25 Susan Orban Mike Mraz	26 Laura Paschall Carter Barnes	27 Paul Wetherbee Mary Ann Papp Gelayne Booth Doug Hoogerhyde Madisson Morgan Adelaide Erway	28	29 Jacqui Winks Patrick Duiven Tony Ziegler Jodi Cary Andrew Schutt Hulda Black Mitchell White
30 Cindy Knape Ken Slamp Charlotte King	31 John Mette John Wiener, Jr.					