

Maywood Community Church

April 2023

Thank You Maywood Family,

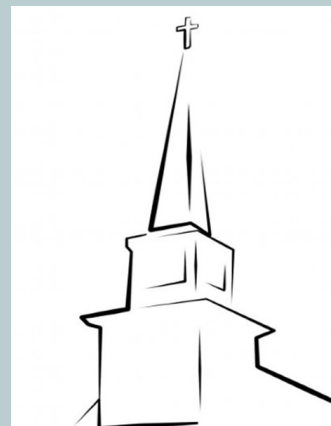
What a blessing it has been to serve as Pastor of Maywood Community Church. When you count my time as Associate Pastor and lead Pastor, I have been at this church more than 21 years, about a third of my life. I just want to thank the Lord for giving me this wonderful calling and opportunity. Thank you for all the support and encouragement over the years. Thank you for loving my wife and children. My children grew up at Maywood. We have so many wonderful family memories here. Thank you for those who stepped up and served the Lord. I have been blessed to see some of the teens from my Youth Pastor days, now serving in various leadership positions, and lead various ministries in the church (Youth Group, VBS, AWANA, School Bag Collection, Praise Team, Deacons). Dennis, Gretchen, Andrea, Mike, and Ty, you hold a special place in my heart. I have had the privilege seeing some of these teenagers trust in Christ, and now have witnessed their children trusting in Christ. Praise God for those blessings. Speaking of God's blessings, I can picture a variety of people dressed in biblical costumes downstairs from ages 3 to 85 years old, ready to present a passion play so people could hear about Jesus. I can picture that same group the next night with tears of joy in their eyes due to hearing about several people the night before who trusted in Christ when the invitation was given. And that didn't just happen that one year, but year after year God used Maywood's Passion Play to bring many to Christ. He gets the Glory! I have been blessed to see many step up over the years and start new ministries: Helping Hands of Faith, Men's Breakfast, Give Away Free Day, Prison Ministry, Renewal, Quilters, Drive through Prayer, Guess Who's Coming to Dinner, and Angel food Ministry. We even had a motorcycle run as a fundraiser for a few years. I have been blessed to see Maywood step up and partner with Casa De Mi Padre Children's home, Brothers In Blue Prison Ministry, God's Mountain Camp, Salvation Army, City Union Mission, Midland Ministries, Kansans For Life, and other ministries. Maywood is truly a generous church and always steps up when a need in the community or around the world is brought forward. I have many fond memories of mission trips, ski trips, leadership retreats, men's retreats, picnics, breakfast fellowships and the annual Christmas lunch with Ladies council.

There are so many people I want to can thank personally for your service to God's church here at Maywood and for your friendship, but there is just not enough room on this paper. But I do want to thank my two long time church secretaries (Office managers) Meghan Theiss and Traci Ash. These two really kept the glue together and me sane at the same time. I can't tell you how many times people had come to me for counseling, or just to talk, and knew their business wouldn't be shared with others because they knew that Meghan and Traci held confidentiality in the highest regard. That is so important in a church. Thank you, Meghan and Traci, for keeping Maywood running by day, being a sounding board, being a trusted sister in Christ and dear friend to my family and I.

I will miss Sunday morning praying time with Tom Elliott and John Casner (Ken Howard RIP and Jack Douglas were there too) before the service. I will miss hearing the praise team warming up before the service and greeting everyone on Sunday morning. And I will miss Gary Long's Sunday patriotic attire (He is a Marine). I will miss calling Larry Reeves about anything dealing with the web page or computers, or our wives rescuing every animal that needs to be adopted. And I will miss talking with Don Ash and the praise team (Multimedia too) about praise music. And of course, I cannot forget all of you that baked me a pumpkin pie, Christmas cookies, or any other assorted treat, THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF MY HEART, or should I say stomach. I want to give a big thank you to those who would approach me over the years and say, "Pastor, I am praying for you", or "I am here for you". I just cannot tell you how much that has meant to me. Thank you also to the Elders and Deacons for your long and recent support. You are truly brothers in Christ. And thank you to those who had and have a teachable spirit. It has been a blessing seeing many grow closer to God, grow in their faith and service, and grow in their knowledge of God's Word. Thank you, Maywood, for allowing this "Foolish Thing" (I Cor. 1:27) to be your pastor.

I am excited about Maywood's future after the Bryden family's departure. Maywood survived Covid where many churches faltered. Maywood had one of the best years of giving in 2022 and had the most given to missions in the history of our church. Our Youth Group is growing under the direction of Dennis and Meghan Theiss, and the church has had new folks join the church during Covid. The leadership of the church has a clear plan for church growth that we started implementing last year. Oh, and of course, God is in control. I leave you now with Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight."

May the Lord bless and keep you Maywood Family.



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April Events:

April 1st: Men's Prayer Breakfast

April 20th: Ladies Council Meeting 10 am

April 23rd: Pastor John's Last Sunday

April 27th: Helping Hands of Faith 6:30-8:00 pm

Every Tuesday:

**Ladies Bible Study 10 am
Ladies Quilting 1 pm**

Every Wednesday:

**Prayer Meeting 6 pm
AWANA 6:30 pm**

With sincere love and gratitude,

Pastor John (PJ) Bryden



MISSIONS



Village Initiative, Inc.
Family Life Resource Center
501(c)3 Non-Profit Corporation

Our newest Missions Group we support is Village Initiative, Inc of Kansas City, Kansas.

Their goal is to help people who have been incarcerated or even on probation rebuild their lives to reintegrate back into society to become productive citizens. Also, to prevent incarceration of at risk youth by intervention and networking. The program's values are justice, respect, dignity, fairness,

caring equality, self-esteem, and self sufficiency. This is performed in a Faith based environment with Bible Study and prayer time available to participants.

“Only those who see the invisible accomplish the impossible”

Pulpit Nominating Committee

The nine-member committee has been meeting every Sunday and have accomplished the following:

- The committee approved and posted the job description online to Indeed, Calvary, and Dallas Baptist Seminary Job Boards.
- In the month of March, 45 resumes were received and reviewed.
- Four candidates were chosen to be moved forward in the process.
- The four candidates were sent a follow up questionnaire (developed by the committee) which pertains to the candidates' theological views as well as Pastoral care.
- One candidate withdrew his application, two have returned the questionnaire and the final candidate has stated he will complete and return the document.

Please continue to pray for the church and the committee to find the next Pastor which the Lord has chosen for Maywood.

Youth Group

We had a successful Ski Trip to Loveland, Colorado! We had 23 Youth and 4 Adults. Most were first time skiers or snowboarders. They did great! There were 2 full days of skiing. It was a fun trip. They are ready to do it again next year.

The rest of the month we had our regular meetings. These consist of games, snacks, and a lesson. We focused on social media and choices for our lessons.

If anyone would ever like to donate a dessert to Youth Group, please let Meghan know. They like to eat!

Please continue to pray for this Ministry!

March Financial Corner:

We were under budget on expenses for the month of March.

We were over budget on Giving for the month.