

Maywood Community Church

October 2023

I was born in Phoenix, Arizona, and was raised Catholic, attending Catholic school up through the eighth grade. In my high school years, I walked away from the Catholic church and went on to secular high school and college. I graduated from Arizona State University with a bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice. It was my intention to become a police officer, but I decided to make a change in direction shortly after receiving my degree.

I had worked for a large grocery chain from age 14 and continued in produce management for several years after graduation. I learned much about running a business in those years and am so grateful for the on-the-job training I received. I also loved basketball and started coaching youth basketball, as a volunteer, for the downtown YMCA. My love for basketball propelled me to continue my education so that I could eventually work with kids.

In the meantime, we hired a young lady to start a floral department in our store. She was a Christian and was not shy about her faith. She began to share verses with me and we would often discuss things about the Bible. What impressed me was the fact that she knew countless verses by heart. As she shared, I would write some of the verses down. Later, I would look in my Catholic Bible at home to see if she knew what she was talking about. To my amazement, she did! In fact, I was so impressed at how many verses she knew by heart. Out of curiosity, I started to visit her church. Highland Bible Church was a church consisting of about 100 people. The men in the church latched onto me and made me their friend. These men would invite me to their men's breakfast and we would talk and pray together. One of these men was a dynamic Sunday school teacher. His teaching was so convicting that I often wanted to get up and leave, but I didn't. I was convicted of my sin and the truth that he would present. God had His Hand upon me and was gently bringing me to the place where I would realize my need for a Savior. In April of 1984, at the end of one of Pastor Cardy's messages, I believed on Jesus Christ and accepted Him as my Savior. I finally came to the place where I realized that I must put my faith and trust in Christ alone for my salvation. From that point on, my life was never the same and many, many changes occurred.

One of the key changes that occurred was a career switch. I had continued taking education classes, finished my student teaching and began to actively look for a teaching position in the public school. Every place I would apply, there was a huge stack of applications for one position and I continued to come up empty. A friend at church suggested looking at some of the area Christian schools. One school, Western Christian School, was looking for a social studies teacher and a varsity basketball and baseball coach. My interview went well, but the principal, Mr. Byrd, stated that while he would love to hire me, he felt that I was a baby Christian and did not have the spiritual maturity necessary for a Christian school teacher. I continued looking for a teaching position with no success. One day, I was driving home and was heading north on Interstate 17 in Phoenix, when on the southbound side of the freeway a bus was broken down. As I passed by, I saw the name Western Christian School on the side, Mr. Byrd's school. I took the next exit and pulled up behind the bus (before cell phones) and offered my help while identifying who I was. There were two classes of kindergartners on the bus and they were out of control. The teachers were beside themselves and didn't know what to do, so I went to call for help and then came back to stay with them. As a result, Mr. Byrd called to thank me and invited me back for a second interview. I was hired and started my first Christian school teaching and coaching job.

I had no intent of staying in a profession that paid little and demanded so much, but the Lord used the first year to cause me to grow and depend upon Him. In addition to this, God used this experience to shape a strong philosophy of Christian education in my heart. We had our first daughter that year and received only about two thirds of our pay as the school was floundering financially. The high school closed down at the end of the school year causing us to move on to another Christian school in the area.

For the past 36 years, we have been involved in Christian school education. Our five daughters have known no other form of schooling. I have taught many different classes from third through eighth grades, secondary social studies, English and Bible courses. I have been an administrator of several schools for the majority of that time. For the past 13 years, I have served as the school administrator and pastoral staff member at Fourth Baptist Church and Christian School in Plymouth, Minnesota. A number of years ago, I completed a Master's of Ministry degree from Northland Baptist Bible College.

Additionally, I have served in churches while serving in Christian school ministry. I have served as an associate pastor, interim pastor, filled pulpit at many churches, taught in Sunday school, served as an elder, and headed up a parenting and evangelism ministry.

My wife, Allyson, has served alongside of me, as a support and helper, Sunday school teacher, elementary chapel speaker, hot lunch coordinator, and in music ministry at various churches we have served in. She is also very hospitable.

We have five daughters ranging from ages 21-35 and five grandchildren (soon to be 13, a story for a later time). Our youngest daughter, Maddie, will be a junior at Faith Baptist Bible College in Ankeny, IA in the fall.

About a year ago, we began to pray about a potential move from our present ministry. The Lord made it clear to us that it was time to make a change and we began to look at the possibility of a senior pastor position. Our plan was to complete this school year, sell our home in the Minneapolis area, and move down to Kansas City to be near all five of our children. All five daughters and their families live within 2-3 hours of Kansas City. Everything was on track until my wife developed a nagging cough that would not go away.

That nagging cough led us down a road we certainly did not plan to go. Many tests later, it was discovered that Allyson had Stage 4 metastatic colon cancer that had spread to her liver, lymph, and possibly her lung. To make matters worse, our oncologist gave us little hope for a life beyond two years with chemotherapy every ten days. We began looking elsewhere for treatment and ended up going to Arizona, thanks to the kindness and generosity of our school and church families. We have been overwhelmed at the support of so many!

We continued to pursue opportunities as we were confident that God was still leading us to the Kansas City area. This is where God led us to the senior pastor position at Maywood Community Church.

God is always good and we are excited to see what is ahead.

Pastor Alan J. Hodak



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October Events:

October 7th Men's Prayer Breakfast 8 a.m.

October 14th Annual Fall Bazaar 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

October 21st: Ladies Council Meeting 10 am

October 26th : Helping Hands of Faith 6:30-8:00 pm

October 29th Trunk or Treat 6:30– 8:00 p.m.

Every Tuesday:

Ladies Bible Study 10 am

Ladies Quilting 1 pm

Every Wednesday:

Prayer Meeting 6 pm

AWANA 6:30-8:00 pm

Every Sunday Night:

Bible Study 6 pm

Youth Group 6:30-8:00 pm

MISSIONS

God's Mountain Camp is a non-profit Christian Summer Camp and Conference Center.

In 1994 Johnny Williams was introduced to Camp Grace, an abandoned boys camp, on the beautiful bluffs north of Rushville, Mo. The camp was in terrible disrepair. After much prayer and hard work by Johnny, his wife Pam, their children, friends, and volunteers they held their first camp in 1995. This last summer they hosted 14 camps for children 5-18. Also they now host retreats as a convention center throughout the year. God is still at work using God's Mountain as a tool for sharing the Gospel.



The four purposes of God's Mountain are to effectively reach and encourage people to receive the Gospel of Jesus Christ, to encourage people in their daily Christian walk, to enlarge the circle of Christian friends, and to develop Christian leadership.

Maywood has supported God's Mountain for over 15 years on a monthly basis. Please pray for

Johnny, his family, and the rest of the staff that work at the camp. Also please pray for the children and adults that attend the camps and retreats. For more information you can go to <http://www.godsmountainministries.org>.

"Only those who see the invisible accomplish the impossible"

Youth Group

We have had a great September! We started watching Jesus Revolution in between our study. The Youth have really enjoyed the changeup. We will finish up the movie and then return to our study.

Wednesday, September 27th was See You At The Pole. This is where Youth Leaders in the area meet with Youth to gather around the flag pole to pray. We had at least 9 of our Youth attend.

Please continue to pray for our Youth!

If you would like to donate a dessert to the Youth for a Sunday, please reach out to Meghan.

Greetings,

The Elders would like to update the Congregation on the following:

The Spruce Up Committee is currently involved in cleaning up the clutter at the Church and helping to prepare the building so it will be ready once the contractor begins the insurance repairs. The Committee is also identifying long term projects for Church improvements.

The leak in the nursery has been repaired, the sheetrock replaced and painted. The next step is to clean up the room and replace the carpet.

The installation of the new basketball goals has been completed by adding reinforcements to the backboards so they do not flex.

Thanks to the Carpenter family for planting flowers next to the digital sign.

The insurance adjuster submitted his report to the insurance company on September 11. The insurance company has told us they will complete the claim in two to four weeks. In this waiting period we have been meeting with the contractor and reviewing the steps which will need to be taken before and during the Church repairs.

The Elders and Pastor Alan will begin working on Church's initiatives once the Pastor has had time to settle.

Thanks to everyone who has been involved at Maywood and let's continue to build the momentum. This month there are two opportunities to reach out to the community so please volunteer for the Church Bazaar and Trunk or Treat. Also, don't forget to invite your friends and neighbors to Church.

God Bless,

The Elders

September Financial Corner:

We were over budget on Expenses for the month of September.

We were under budget on Giving for the month.

Annual Fall Bazaar

Oct. 14th 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Join us for a great fall day of bargains, homemade jelly, crafts, glassware, linens, Men's treasures, jewelry, books, and a bake sale with homemade goodies.

Be sure to check out the raffle table of 6 great handmade items. Raffle tickets are \$1 or 6 for \$5 (raffle drawing will be at 2:00 p.m. at the bazaar).

The kitchen will be open from 10-2. You can buy homemade soup and chili, hotdogs, chilidogs, nachos, and of course a piece of pie will be available. To go containers will be available so you can take a shut in a real lunch.

Looking forward to seeing each of you.

Sponsored by Maywood Ladies Council