

February 2025 Elder Update

Greetings Everyone,

Even though it is the middle of winter Maywood is still very busy. The building improvements continue, and the Church is ramping up for Easter. Read on to review all the updates.

Thanks go out to Dave LeManske who conducted the Safety and Security seminar on Jan 19, 2025. Twenty-one church members attended the course and were provided information about the procedures in place to keep everyone safe while attending Church services and events.

The final "Meet Your Deacons Dinner" is Sunday February 9. The dinner has been fun and a great way to meet your Deacon and share about the Church as well as learning about each other. Thanks to everyone who attended. Please let the Elders know if you are not on a Deacon list and wish to be added.

Singers are still needed for the Easter Cantata. Practices will begin on March 8. Please see Don Ash or Alan Hodak if you want to join the Cantata.

Reminder: Paper copies of the Directory are now available.

Building Updates

The storm windows were approved by the Church and have been ordered.

The cemetery fence line was cleared of brush and many of the smaller tombstones were straightened by the Boy Scout troop as part of an Eagle Scout project.

The sheetrock repair in the women's fellowship hall bathroom was completed.

Upcoming building projects

The kitchen floor in the fellowship hall will be cleaned and waxed.

Repair work is being scheduled to fix the ceiling crack in the south side annex of the sanctuary, which occurred during the heavy snow.

Hardening the Church Initiatives

After reviewing several monitoring systems, Simply Safe was chosen by the Elders. The equipment was installed by the men of the church after the January men's breakfast. The system consists of smoke/carbon monoxide detectors, temperature, and water sensors. If any of the sensors detects a problem, it will notify the designated church contact. This should allow for us to identify and fix the issue before it becomes a major problem.

Please be aware of the equipment and do not throw away the water monitors since they look like ant traps and are located under the sinks.

Upcoming Events

The Lady's Council has invited the church congregation to a Taco Valentines Dinner after Church on February 16, 2025. Please see Kathy Delap if you can help or would like to bring a food item.

Church leadership training will be held on April 12
Also, don't forget we are planning a homecoming in July.

Please be in prayer for the Church family as there are many physical needs. Please pray for our Church to reach out to the community and share the Gospel. Continue to pray for our community and our country.

In Christ's Love,

The Elders

February Events:

February 1st:
Men's Prayer
Breakfast 8 am

February 2nd:
Meet Your
Deacon Dinner
Terry and
Chuck

February 9th:
Meet Your
Deacon Dinner
Mike and Sam

February 9th:
Meet Your
Deacon Dinner
Harlin and
Dennis

February 16th:
Missions Sun-
day

Valentine's
Taco Dinner
after Church

February 20th:
Ladies Council
10 am

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

Every Tuesday:
Ladies Bible
Study 10 am

Ladies Quilting
1 pm

Every
Wednesday:

**AWANA 6:30-
8:00 pm**

**Every Sunday
Night:**

**Youth Group
6:30-8:00 pm**

Religious Liberty Threats

I want to thank the Maywood Board of Elders in allowing me to attend a recent “LEAD” Conference held in Atlanta, Georgia. I was able to fly to Atlanta on a Monday and head home Wednesday night. This two-day conference featured speakers from the Alliance Defending Freedom (ADF), an organization you may have heard of, that protects Christian ministries against threats to religious freedoms completely free of cost. The organization has grown tremendously over the past five years and is actively working to protect a number of churches and parachurch organizations from religious liberty threats and, if necessary, gives them representation in court.

An example of this is a current case entitled, *World Vision v. McMahon*, where an individual had applied to work for the organization. The individual was offered a position, but in the process of application, it was discovered that the applicant was in a same-sex relationship. The offer was rescinded and the individual filed a lawsuit against the organization. A decision for this case is pending.

Unfortunately, in our culture, most of the current lawsuits against Christian parachurch organizations and churches often have to do with sexual identity issues. One of the newest developments in our culture is something called “Gender Dysphoria.” An example of gender dysphoria is when an individual becomes distressed because they are dealing with gender confusion. That individual is then given a label because they are suffering from a newly defined “disability” that is the product of their personal struggle with their gender identification. This is new, unanticipated, and is being used to argue cases throughout our nation.

What most people don’t know is that Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) cases are saturating our court system. And cases like this have a potential of eroding our religious liberties.

The battle is over religious liberty and our First Amendment rights.

In 1997, President Clinton signed the Religious Freedom and Restoration Act (RFRA) that was overwhelmingly approved by the entire Democratic-dominated Congress at the time. This act bolstered religious protections for all Americans and placed the burden of proof on whoever was bringing a lawsuit against a church or religious institution. We are seeing a resurgence, fueled in part by confidence in our newly elected President’s administration, of RFRA stipulations being rewritten and strengthened in several states. Iowa and Wyoming are leading the way in this and we are hoping that other states will follow.

We need to pray for our nation and for our new President and cabinet, as well as our court system and states that the religious liberties we have enjoyed, from the inception of our nation’s history, will remain and be strengthened in the coming days.

Lord, please protect our churches, religious schools, and para-church ministries, including our mission organizations, from the onslaught of satanic attacks against the religious liberties and freedoms we have so long enjoyed. May the light of the gospel continue to be able to go forth in our nation as God’s people pray, and may we be faithful in pursuing Christ-likeness, seizing opportunities presented to share a message of hope and salvation to a world desperate for it.

Let’s make sure that we put this on our daily prayer lists.
~Pastor Alan

The Moyer’s Visit

In December, we met Ronnie and Becky Moyer from Moyer Ministries, one of our supported missionaries. And what a unique ministry they have!

The Moyers host six full weeks of “Biblical Horsemanship Clinics” across the United States. These clinics utilize horse and human relationships to teach people about salvation and that a “Change is Possible.” Since 1993, their summers are dedicated to youth, putting on Rodeo Bible Camps that equip young people to learn how to defend what they believe.

Besides being a pretty good singer and guitarist, Ronnie fills pulpit, goes on missions’ trips, and participates as a chaplain and speaker at national rodeo events. Becky handles all the organization and administrative end of things as well as speaks at ladies’ retreats.

We enjoyed the Moyers’ time with us, getting to know them and learning of the rich ministry the Lord has given them. May God be praised! We are so happy to be partnering with them.

~Pastor Alan

January Financial

Corner:

General Giving: \$26,979.00

Designated Giving: \$1,332.00

Total: \$28,311.00

Monthly Giving Budget: \$24,041.00

**Monthly Operating Income:
\$9,429.00**