

MAYWOOD EVANGELICAL FREE CHURCH

GARY KNISELEY, LEAD PASTOR ANNUAL REPORT November 11, 2018

“That according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—” (Ephesians 3:16-17)

In order to glorify His holy name, my hope and prayer is that God’s church would walk with the confidence that God has given us, the needed grace and wisdom to journey this life, and to prepare us for the next. God will always accomplish this through His Word, His Spirit, His Son, His Gospel, and our partnership with Him.

How I have witnessed God at work this past year:

- **Most importantly, we have witnessed the conversion of souls and obedience to Christ in Baptism!** Please continue to pray for those who have come to Christ. Our greatest priority is to elevate Jesus Christ, to teach a clear Gospel, and to make healthy disciples for God’s glory.
- **God continues to draw our hearts and talents together as a staff.** Both the pastoral staff and entire church staff work diligently together in honorable relationships. I’m honored in the hard work and commitment that they all demonstrate regularly.
- **God continues to bring new faces and families to Maywood.** It is truly a gift and treasure from God to have new faces regularly. We are also blessed to have many people going through the membership class each time it is offered. All of the pastors, along with the church staff, work to make sure that people are not lost in the crowd. We attempt to assimilate people into the church family as quickly as possible.
- **God has met our every financial need!** We strive to be very frugal as a church in order to maximize ministry. The budget remains fiscally conservative and we always strive to keep expenditures lower than income. I believe that we are doing more local ministry and outreach than we ever have since I have been here. I’m very thankful to Carol Hines for her gifted accounting practices and upright spirit.
- **More people continue to be involved in Life Groups.** Praise God for Pastor Dave! Under his leadership, he has connected more people together at Maywood than ever before. Life Groups are and will continue to remain the backbone for strengthening believers in growing together through prayer and the Word of God.
- **God has brought Pastor Ryan!** God met a special need in our children’s ministry area with the gift of Pastor Ryan. His passion for children and God’s Word have encouraged so many! The children love him and the staff love working with him.
- **Search for Pastor of Student Ministries and Executive Pastor.** I do believe that we are narrowing the search for a pastor over student ministries. I would like to see that position filled by the beginning of the New Year. I have already received names for the position of executive pastor, and one name stands out to me. Once again, the executive pastor will serve to manage the accounting and serve in various pastoral responsibilities. This would be an extreme blessing to me.

- **Planting of Christ Church in Sterling, IL.** By God's goodness, your obedience, and much prayer, we have witnessed the birth of a new church! The local church remains God's Gospel agency for today, and we look forward to working with other churches of like faith in the common endeavor of church planting for years to come.
- **Acquisition of Property.** God heard and answered our prayers for this property. I see this as an act of grace and a miracle of God. We are currently working on parking lot blueprints in order to receive estimates. We will continue to seek God's direction and planning for this development.
- **Renovation of Youth Room.** Praise God for the financial provisions and skilled hands in order to complete this room. John Ketcham and many volunteers were such a blessing to help this come together. I also thank the pastors who stepped up on multiple occasions to help in the project. This room was completed primarily by volunteers and paid for in cash.
- **Hosting the Great Lake District Conference.** This was an encouragement to so many leaders who came together to fellowship at Maywood and to grow. Your spirit to serve and welcome our brothers and sisters in Christ encouraged my heart!

Looking forward to the Future with you:

- **Bible & Prayer Centered.** This remains the foundation~~ALWAYS! In order to do anything for Christ, we must be anchored in His Word and be spiritually healthy first! We must remain confident that we accomplish great things through the power of His might and for His glory! *This means that each person in the church embraces his or her own faith-walk in Christ very seriously.* It means that each person is committed to growing and worshipping with others through faithful Sunday attendance and through a Life-Group.
- **Vision Driven Church.** We will continue to measure everything by our vision, and we are striving to continue to build strong disciples who share the Gospel freely. You can expect more *corporate* and *personal* opportunities to share Jesus Christ.
- **Pastoral Staffing.** Please be in prayer as I work with the elders for the next staff that God would lead to Maywood. We are blessed with great volunteers during the transition. However, we are working diligently to move forward in God's timing.
- **Church Planting.** My prayer and heart's desire is to be able to identify an individual who could help us launch a church plant next year in either Belvidere or Rochelle, Illinois. We are currently working on saving money for this endeavor, and we desire to be available to help other churches plant as well.
- **Parking Lot & Administrative Area.** As noted formerly, these are two areas that we are pursuing to develop soon. Please be in prayer with us, and give as you can.

My wife and I want to thank you for the privilege to serve and to grow in Christ with you! There is a great inner joy knowing that God has us right where He wants us to blossom. We can't even begin to tell you how much your love, encouragement, and prayers mean to us as a couple! God has been most kind to His Church and us!

Pastor Gary Kniseley

DAVID CURRIE, PASTOR OF DISCIPLESHIP AND BODY LIFE MINISTRIES
ANNUAL REPORT
November 11, 2018

“For what thanksgiving can we return to God for you,” I Thessalonians 3:9

Present: I want to touch on the above verse by expressing my thanks to God for all the people of Maywood that help make ministry possible. There is no way that I or the pastors would be able to engage in many of the ministries of Maywood without you. Thank you!

Volunteers were such a crucial part of making Harvest Fest 2018 happen. I am glad we persevered with the event despite the wind. Approximately 550 people came out and about two-thirds of them were guests. A number of gift bags were handed out with Gospel and church literature.

I want to thank Jared Smith for his assistance in heading up the safety team. He has not only helped in the process of getting a policy written, but he and I dialogue to see how the safety of the church can be made that much better.

The Mom2Mom ministry continues to do well. Thank you, Abbey Wong, for your leadership.

A special thanks to all the Life Group leaders who engage in discipleship throughout the year.

God has given me the privilege of coming alongside individuals with various needs. The benevolence fund has made much of this possible. Praise the Lord.

Another trip to Alaska to help Steve and Jill Horsman happened back in July. Projects were done to help them be freed up for ministry.

Just a note on Rockford University, I continue to try to reach out to international students. It is unique and takes a little time.

Thank you for allowing me to preach and teach the Bible and related topics.

Looking back it is amazing how much ministry and projects were accomplished this year.

Future: In the plans is a trip to the Field Museum of Chicago on November 12. The goal is to further discipleship by not only taking in the exhibits but to think critically and biblically about them.

Also, coming up, Lord willing, is a special initiative by women’s ministries called “Home for Christmas.” My hope is that this initiative will bear fruit in outreach.

Something that I will be looking into for 2019 is a simulcast conference that we can have at Maywood called “Work as Worship.” This will help believers to think biblically regarding their employment.

Personal: It was such a great moment for me to have the privilege of baptizing my son Eli. I am so proud of him. I want to thank my wife and family for all their support and patience as they partner with me in ministry.

Thank you, congregation, for all your prayers and support.

In the grip of His grace, Pastor Dave

AARON WONG, PASTOR OF WORSHIP AND CREATIVE OUTREACH
ANNUAL REPORT
November 11, 2018

Report from Pastor Aaron

Worship Ministry

For a few months this year, the number of people on our Tech Team were down, and we were looking to recruit more people to join the team. After some extra intention and effort, our Technology Director, Ethan Zentz, and I were able to add quite a few more Tech Team members, which was very encouraging to see.

One of the highlights this year was the rollout of Live Stream for our worship services. The responses were much better than expected. Many people of all ages have taken advantage of the Live Stream, including people who do not usually attend Maywood. In fact, recently a guest came to visit us on a Sunday morning as a result of watching us online. Ethan and I are working constantly to ensure our Live Stream works flawlessly on a consistent basis. We plan to improve the audio quality in the near future so that our worship music would sound better on people's devices.

I am looking forward to the busy yet productive Thanksgiving and Christmas season. All the special seasonal events will focus on intentionally drawing our Community to the Gospel. I also expect a much bigger choir in the Christmas Concert this year.

Creative Outreach

Recently I attended the Outreach Summit in Colorado to learn and get more ideas for local outreach. Pastors from some of the 100 fastest growing churches in the country were there. I left the conference feeling encouraged, because we are already doing many things that people across the country are doing to reach people for Christ. I am very thankful that Maywood already has the intention and urgency to bring the Gospel to its community. My goal is to continue to bring this intention and urgency to people's minds, so that all of us would go and share the gospel in our own circle of influence.

A highlight for outreach this year was the rollout of Mission Moment. The episodes serve to enforce the fact that we all own a piece of reaching out to the people that we know. The real stories and examples in these videos keep our mission in the forefront of people's minds.

Personal

As of this summer, Abbey and I have officially completed our paperwork and Home Study for adoption. We are now in the waiting period to be contacted by our agency if a birth mother desires to place her child in our home. Kayley is enjoying being a Kindergartener, Emmy is loving Preschool, and Jace just took his first steps of walking by himself! We appreciate your prayers for our family and we love being part of Maywood!

PASTOR RYAN RENNER, PASTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES
ANNUAL REPORT
November 11, 2018

PAST: It has been a joy building relationships with and instructing the kids here. I have been privileged to serve alongside people at Maywood with a real heart for Children's Ministry. I saw this at the Easter Egg Hunt, Father/Daughter Banquet, and Harvest Fest. Thank you all. I also saw this in the following ministries:

Faith Factory Sundays: Becky Goffinet, who is irreplaceable, and I have been blessed to choose curriculum and facilitate teaching time for the kids. I've been able to introduce a Gospel-centered curriculum called "The Jesus Storybook Bible" and have gotten to write lessons that teach biblical theology for the 4th and 5th graders. Thank you to the *many* people who serve here.

Awana: I have been blessed to help our commander, Scott Strunk, oversee this program along with current directors Jennifer Ogden, Becky Goffinet, Rita Rose, and Cyndi Schmitt. We're able to reach many families from within and outside of Maywood with AWANA's emphases on the Gospel, Scripture, and relational heart change ministry. Our many leaders are invaluable.

Tutor Club: We were blessed to have a record high of 31 students in the program this year with many passionate and committed tutors for whom we are so very thankful. Seven kids made decisions for Christ and four of them were baptized. Denny and Sherri Elrick serve tirelessly as the Holy Spirit has enabled deeper counseling, discipleship, and coming alongside these kids and their families. We've seen the Holy Spirit completely transform the lives of an entire family.

Club 45: Events included a Winter Retreat, laser tag, pool party, and a visit to Jonamac Orchard. All was done with the goal of growing 4th and 5th graders spiritually as they transition into middle school. Summer 45 was a new ministry that allowed us to pour into the lives of 4th & 5th graders weekly this past summer. We focused on good spiritual habits and had a lot of fun. A big thanks to Greg and Heather Johnson for leading and for others who helped throughout the year.

Summer Camp: From 2 Tim. 1:6, our theme was "On Fire for God" relating to living the Christian life empowered by the Holy Spirit. We took 70 3rd-8th grade campers and 27 staff to Camp Awana and were blessed to witness one student's decision to believe in Jesus Christ. Thank you so much to Becky Goffinet, Noah Johnson, and all of our counselors and staff.

Day Camp: We spent the week learning about Jesus' role in the past, present, and future. Over 60 kids came. It was an amazing opportunity to reach both kids from Maywood and the community. It took many hands to make this week happen, and they were all so appreciated.

PRESENT: I am focused on continuing to help Sunday Faith Factory, Awana, Tutor Club, and Club 45 thrive. Michelle Cain and I are preparing with the kids for the upcoming Christmas Program. I am also preparing to provide the devotional for the Thanksgiving Eve Service.

PERSONAL: My first 9 months here have been filled with triumphs, challenges, and learning. I continue to see God's strength made perfect in my weakness and the sufficiency of His grace for me to help accomplish His will here at Maywood (2 Cor. 12:7-10). I look forward to the many opportunities coming this year to serve with you and bring the hope of the Gospel to our kids.

Ryan Renner/Children's Ministries

ELDERS' COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT
November 11, 2018

My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Another year is drawing to a close, and 2018 has gone as fast as 2017. Every year seems to go by faster than the year before. A lot of good things have happened here at Maywood during this past year, and God continues to work and bless. We rejoice in how we have seen God work in the new church plant in Sterling with Pastor Aron Utecht as we have partnered with them. As we strive to fulfill our vision of "becoming a people to reach people for Christ," we look forward to more church plants and seeing how God would use Maywood as we move into the future.

As elders, we have kept busy seeking God's direction as we continue ministering to the needs of the body and helping to drive our mission of being an outward focused church. We gather twice a month to pray, spend time in God's word and in study, and discussing the issues that face Maywood. We are very encouraged by the health and direction of our church. Please continue to pray for all of our church leaders.

As we come to the end of 2018 and move into 2019, we as Christ-followers must commit ourselves to being in the Word daily and devoting ourselves to prayer constantly. These two daily disciplines are absolutely necessary if we truly want to fulfill our vision at Maywood: "Becoming a people to reach people for Christ." Please join me in this all-important quest.

It is my prayer that the words of Paul would characterize each of our lives as we live daily for Him, ⁹*Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good.* ¹⁰*Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.* ¹¹*Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord.* ¹²*Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.* ¹³*Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality."* Romans 12:9-13

In Christ,

Dan Brynolf, Elder Chairman

TREASURER'S REPORT
November 11, 2018

Contributions:

Based on the 2018 approved annual budget of \$1,261,526 the average weekly giving to meet budgeted expenditures needed to be \$24,260. The average weekly giving for 2018 was \$25,102.93 or a total of \$1,305,352 (in excess of the budget by \$43,826 or 3.47%). This is a huge praise. Thank you for your faithfulness!

General Funding:

Total budgeted expenses at 52 weeks were \$1,261,526 and the actual expenses were \$1,180,831 (under budget by \$80,695 or 6.4%). This includes payments for fixed item expenditures and other discretionary spending in the church through 52 weeks. The 4th-quarter receipts and expenses were final at October 31st. Expenses matched the budget or were slightly lower for most of the expense categories with the exception of two categories. Personnel salaries and wages were lower due to Pastor Ben's departure, and utilities were significantly lower than predicted.

The Budgeted Missions Funding for the 2018 fiscal year was \$204,000. The final funding at 52 weeks was \$195,684. All requested payments from the Missions committee were paid at 100% of the Missions planned payments for the year.

Mortgage Balance Overview:

The principal balance as of October 31, 2018 is \$1,706,704 with an interest rate of 3.36%, and our monthly payment is \$11,256. One note of good news is that the last interest free loans will be paid back this next year.

We are saddened by Carol's departure. She has served faithfully as the financial administrator for nearly 7 years. Procedures are being put into place until the Lord provides someone to fill her shoes.

We are thankful to you and the Lord for providing the property for additional parking. This next year we will be discussing on ways to pay for the construction of the parking lot.

In summary, we praise and thank the Lord for His provision this past year. Giving was in excess of the budgeted contributions while spending was below the budgeted expenses. Thank you for the way in which you support the ministries and outreaches of Maywood.

In Christ, Keenan Beere

**MISSIONS COMMITTEE
ANNUAL MEETING
November 11, 2018**

I am so pleased to be able report on the wisdom, maturity and unity even in disagreement I have seen on the Missions Committee this year. As I pass the Missions Chair “baton” to Ethan Zentz, I am comfortable that Maywood Missions will continue to Glorify God and honor Maywood’s stewardship wishes.

2018 Maywood missions include:

- Wonderful, informative Lunch & Learns – where visiting missionaries have an hour to share their ministry with us and answer any questions we may have. If you have not attended a Lunch & Learn, you are missing out on what God is doing through our missionaries around the world and right here at home.
- Pastor Dave and team doing another Adult Construction / Clean-up with the Horsmans in Alaska.
- Local opportunities here in the greater Rockford area, AWANA, Tutor Club, etc.

We have also taken on new missionaries from Maywood:

- Johnny and Avery Lieske (Encounter Ministries) College Student Outreach at University of Alabama - Birmingham.
- Rachel Bliss (EFCA Global Fingerprints), a child sponsorship program.
- Shannon Storm (National School Project) training college students to mentor / disciple high schoolers to reach their school for Jesus.

We encourage you to pray and get involved.

We are excited about 2019 and are looking forward to seeing how God will use us for His Glory.

Respectfully submitted,
Douglas Sutton
Missions Chair

STEPHEN MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT

November 11, 2018

Stephen Ministers are people who desire to provide distinctly Christian one-to-one care to those experiencing difficult times in life. Care-givers employ understanding and skills sharpened through twenty weeks of training (2-1/2 hour sessions). We have trained a total of 13 people as Stephen Ministers. Eight of them are currently serving as Stephen ministers, while two additional persons will complete their training and be commissioned on November 18, 2018. One person completed the training as part of a plan to join our Leadership Team as our primary training facilitator. Since the commissioning of our first group of Stephen Ministers in March 2016, over 500 hours have been invested in the lives of 17 Care Receivers by our Stephen Ministers.

Stephen Ministries has been part of Maywood's vision "to become a people to reach people for Christ" since 2015, partially fulfilling the third and fourth "E"s of our mission: Encourage the Family of God and Extend the Love of God. Stephen Ministries is a 43-year-old international not-for-profit organization which provides educational training and resources known for their excellence, practicality, psychological integrity, and theological depth.

Stephen Ministry at Maywood is under the supervision of our Pastors and a specially trained Leadership Team. This Team currently has five members, two of whom are also active Stephen Ministers. Our current leaders are Connie Harrison, Cyndi Schmitt, Don Harrison, Nick Bell and Sandy Bell. We anticipate adding another leader to the team in April of 2019.

While our extensive training prepares our Stephen Ministers for a life of care-giving, their commitment is to serve for two years after commissioning, with the opportunity to continue on a year-by-year basis. That means we are always in need of new people who are called of God to serve as Christ's caring servants. We are actively engaged in discovering those who will be participants in our **next training course planned for January 2019**. Would you be interested? Has God gifted you to become a compassionate, faith-filled, trustworthy and skilled Stephen Minister?

On Sunday morning, **November 25th**, an informal "*Get Acquainted With Stephen Ministry*" presentation will take place in the **Fireside Room** (115) at the **beginning of both the 8:30 and the 10:15 worship services**. Plan to come and see whether becoming a Stephen Minister might be the next path to your development as a totally-committed disciple of Jesus Christ. It is not for everyone, **HOWEVER IT MIGHT BE FOR YOU!** Contact Nick (815-222-2741) or Sandy (815-520-1720) for more information.

Respectfully submitted,

Nicholas D. Bell, Stephen Ministry Leadership Team Member