***The Good News***

***2019 Annual Pastor’s Report***

**Scripture:**

***Acts 10:34-43 NRSV*** *(34)Then Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, (35)but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. (36)You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ--he is Lord of all. (37)That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: (38)how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. (39)We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; (40)but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, (41)not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. (42)He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. (43)All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."*

**Notes:**

1. It is difficult to measure ***spiritual*** ***growth***.
   1. The only one who can gauge your ***spiritual*** ***growth*** is you.
   2. We have made ***advancements*** for the Kingdom of God this year.
   3. My hope is that you have been ***challenged*** .
   4. A ***FED*** congregation is actively engaging in Fellowship, Evangelism, and Discipleship
2. We are to spread God’s story to ***everybody***; we must not leave ***anybody*** out,
   1. ***Fellowship***, accepting or extending an invitation to somebody.
   2. ***Evangelism*** begins when we share what Jesus did for us
   3. God commissioned us to ***go*** into all the world, to ***teach*** others, baptize new believers, and make ***disciples***.
3. We are ***witnesses*** to what the Lord is doing.
   1. The Good News of Jesus Christ is for ***everyone***;
   2. Go and share the ***good*** ***news*** to all.
   3. ***Invite*** others into fellowship; in your homes, in this church and the activities we sponsor.
   4. How are you ***FED*** today?
   5. What stories of God’s love can you ***share*** to ***others***?

**Pastor’s Annual Report:**

***Reflection***

Numbers cannot measure the true spiritual growth of the people who call this church home and the effect that we as a church have on our community. It is difficult to measure the spiritual growth of people, especially those who have been walking this Christian walk for many years. The only person who is able to gauge the spiritual growth of any individual is that individual them self. I want to tell each of you that this church is growing and vibrant and full of life, but I do not want to lead anybody astray. I don't want to mislead you with words of affirmation. I want you to know exactly how we, as a church, are doing; I want you to know where we can improve and what we can do to make a difference in our community.

***Experiencing Growth***

In the course of this past year we have made advancements for the Kingdom of God. We have accepted 3 persons into the membership of the church: Josh Musselman, Madison Beegle, and Grant Ferguson. I am excited to see how each of them will grow spiritually and where each of these persons will step into their role, in the ministry and leadership of this church, I am also excited to have baptized 6 young people from our congregation this year, persons ready to express their faith and salvation through the sacrament of baptism: teens- Tara Roxby, Madison Beegle, Grant Ferguson, and children- Jenna Damjanovich, Jarret Dufour, and Kaydence Dufour. I am excited for these young people and looking forward to them as they continue to grow in their faith and knowledge of Jesus Christ. These two events were the high point of my year as pastor.

We shared in the Lord's supper on several occasions including a special communion service on Christmas Eve where we served at least 54 people. I preached three sermon series; one for Lent entitled For God So Loved, one on the beatitudes entitled Life's Healing Choices, and the one we just finished for advent, entitled Born the King. My prayer is that these series were as challenging for you as they were for me, my hope is that they have challenged you to think deeper into your spiritual walk and to strive to do more for the Kingdom of Heaven.

I have spent many hours and traveled many miles visiting the sick and the shut-ins, caring for those in need, and bringing hope to those who were struggling. I tried to get to as many as I could. In many instances I was greeted with love and appreciation. I was able to do my best to be Jesus to each of these people. Yet there are so many more people I need to get to.

***Looking for Improvement***

I know there are places where I can improve as the shepherd of this church, my goal is to make improvements as I am able. One way in which I am striving to be a better pastor is by doing continuing education activities. I have participated in many of the opportunities on the district level in which I receive continuing education units. I also participate in webinars found on the Discipleship Place website. I find these activities challenging. They help me to look outside the box for new ideas and ways to reach our community.

I continue to strive to make this congregation a FED Church. I am assuming you understand what I mean by referring to being FED. Are you actively engaging in Fellowship, Evangelism, and Discipleship? Each of us must actively engage in fellowship with the body of believers, with the body of believers, and also with those outside the church. We cannot fulfil the Great Commission without fellowship. The great commission is all about evangelism, the sharing of our faith to others, which is done as we engage in fellowship with the lost. The great commission is also about discipleship; the process of learning the lessons of God, and then teaching those same lessons to others. I have been using these terms over the past few years, trying to encourage each of you to become more involved as the body of Christ.

***Challenge***

I looked to scripture today and what I find reminds me we are to spread God's story to everybody. We must not leave anybody out, for the Lord our God does not discriminate against anybody. Look he called me to be his child, and he called each of you as well. We are all witnesses to what the Lord is doing in the name of Jesus. God told Peter to go and Peter was obedient. Let this be very clear, the Good News of Jesus Christ is for everyone; not just us select few here at the Ryot Church of the Nazarene. It is intended that we go and share this good news to all we encounter. No matter what they look like, no matter where they come from, no matter what language they speak; we are to share this message to all who have ears to hear.

Do not allow any barrier to keep you from doing what God has called you to; and that is share the story of Jesus to all we encounter. Keep telling others what Jesus has done for you and what he can do for them. Invite them into fellowship; in your homes, in this church and the activities we sponsor. Make disciples of them just as you have become a disciple of Jesus,

How are you FED today? How are you engaging in fellowship? Who are you evangelizing; who are you sharing God's love with? Who are you being discipled by (whether they know it or not) and who are you discipling? What stories of God's love can you share to others who need to hear the word of the Lord today?

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Kevin E. Davis