

Pastor's Annual Report

January 2014

Where did all the time go? Can it really be 2015? Looking back helps us look ahead. Last year was a very good year for the United Parish. I hope you were a part of what God did through us. This year we are looking for greater things. We are alive in Christ because of God's love. I John 4:9 reminds us of this truth.

In this, the Love of God was manifested toward us. That God has sent His only begotten son into the World that we might live through him.

Take a moment and look back to the time you first realized how much God loved you. It is a sobering thought to realize that you and I are the target of God's love and care. He knows us by name and knows what we have need of even before we ask. He invites us to come boldly into the throne of grace to obtain mercy and find help in our time of need. We cannot afford to overlook the time and place where He made himself real to us and when we came to faith and invited Jesus into our hearts to be our Lord and Savior.

We don't dwell in that wonderful moment in our life, but we revisit that event as a reminder of His love and care for us. This helps us to move forward in Him when we realize all He has done for us and what He has planned for us. We live in Him. He has a plan of blessing and purpose in our near future. This truth will keep us moving closer to the Lord and will motivate us to continue to read and study the Bible. The Word of God will become real to us (an epiphany) as we study it. The Bible calls this inspiration as "God breathed" or the rhema of the Word. Experiencing the epiphany, rhema of the Word allows us to grow and trust in His love and care.

God's love for us is real. He continues to show his love to us by revealing His truth to us each time we look into His word. This teaches us how we should live in this world and within the circumstances we find ourselves in. To keep us close to our Lord, we must realize the power of His love and the work of His Spirit in our lives. An outcome of spiritual growth is sharing what we have learned with others, serving and ministering to one another using the gifts and talents He has given to us.

In the New Year, let's focus on growing in the grace and knowledge of our Savior, which will be evident in the use of our talents and gifts to minister to one another and our commitment to the body of Christ.

Yours in His Service,
Pastor Cal