

***Meanwhile the church throughout Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and was built up. Living in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, it increased in numbers. (Acts 9:31)***

On Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup> we will be having our annual congregational meeting to share in the business of the corporate church. Yes, as we are actually a non-profit corporation of the state of Arizona we are required by law to have an annual meeting. We will be having the meeting immediately after the worship service on Sunday. I would like to encourage everyone to come and participate in the meeting, especially if you have never been to one before.

In this meeting we not only approve of our Council leaders for another year of service, we also give everyone a chance to review the budget spending plan for the year. Yes... YOU Do get a say in how we use our financial gifts throughout the year! Every year we create a summary report of the past year informing you of the wonderful ministry events that have occurred the past twelve months. You also get statistics like, the wonderful fact we took in at least 32 new members in the last year? When we think about the average worship attendance this is a major percentage of increase in our active membership!

The report also contains a Pastoral report of not only what I see has occurred in the past year but my insights on the new year and the exciting things we can look forward to in building the church and sharing God's Grace. Covid has drastically affected every congregation and our ministries but we have found ways to make a difference in other people's life even though there are restrictions and limits in the way we can do so. For example, we still broadcast our weekly worship service LIVE on Facebook and every video from the weeks past remains so that people can watch our worship any time after the live date. Each week we reach at least 120 viewers a week on-line! The Word of God and the LIGHT of Christ are being shared!

YOU are an essential part of this church family and should be involved in the active everyday life of this congregation. Of course, the "church" isn't just an institution with corporate rules and regulations. This meeting also helps us get a sense of how many people really are interested in the life of this congregation. We are a congregation that meets everyday of the week for one ministry or another that makes a difference in many people's life. We are a congregation that is a part of the greater world. We have a mission to the world and that mission is to share the GREAT news of Jesus Christ and the kingdom of heaven. We need all of us to carry out this mission!

In case you haven't seen our mission statement or our core values lately:

**THE MISSION OF SPIRIT OF HOPE - TO MAKE CHRIST KNOWN.**

**OUR VISION:**

TO PUT GOD FIRST, AS DEDICATED DISCIPLES OF CHRIST; TO PUT OUR FAMILIES/NEIGHBORS SECOND, AS SERVANTS OF OUR COMMUNITY AND TO PUT OURSELVES LAST, IN UNSELFISH SERVICE AND DEVOTION TO JESUS.

**THE CORE VALUES OF SPIRIT OF HOPE ARE:**

WE WELCOME AND LOVE ALL PEOPLE.

WE VALUE THE DIVERSITY IN THE BODY OF CHRIST.

WE STRIVE TO GROW IN CHRIST THROUGH WORSHIP, STUDY AND ACTION.

WE HUNGER TO SERVE AND RESPOND TO THOSE IN NEED.

Hopefully we will see you on February 6<sup>th</sup> at worship!

Peace,

Pastor Tony