

January 2011

From the Pastor



Happy New Year

The New Year is a time when we reflect on how things have gone and look forward to how things can be. As a pastor I am expected to set goals for the church for the coming year, a task I take very seriously.

As I look back to our past year I am pleased with how God has been at work. We have seen many new people come to our church to worship. The church changed its name, and we celebrated 40 years of being a church. We saw new baptisms and new members.

There were hard times as well. We said goodbye to a family or two. We suffered the loss of young and old who walked into the throne room of God. There were also financial concerns.

However, all in all, God has proved faithful this year. He has blessed us in many ways.

As I look forward to 2011, I wonder what God will be doing. I have my vision, but I have learned a long time ago to give my plans to God and take His lead. Consider what is said in the book of James.



¹³ Look here, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we are going to a certain town and will stay there a year. We will do business there and make a profit."¹⁴ How do you know what your life will be like tomorrow? Your life is like the morning fog-- it's here a little while, then it's gone.¹⁵ What you ought to say is, "If the Lord wants us to, we will live and do this or that." (James 4:13-15 New Living Translation)

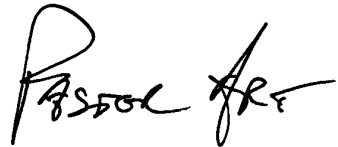
My hope is that we as a church grow in two ways; one is we grow together as a family, and two, we are used to grow the kingdom of God in our community. Here is some of

what I'd like to see happen in our church this year, with the full knowledge that God will make changes as He sees fit.

- All families who are regular attenders be involved in a growth group
- A completed orientation class for all those interested
- A functioning Outreach Commission
- First accountability group (I'll explain this in the coming months.)

Pray for God to work in your heart to seek His vision for you this year. Pray also for us, that this year, we as a church follow God's lead with wonder and excitement.

In Him and for His glory,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Art". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "P" and a stylized "A".