

**2023-2024**

**Morgan**  
**Church of the Nazarene**



**ANNUAL BUSINESS REPORT**

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pastor's Report.....	1-4
Finance Reports.....	5-7
Trustees' Report.....	8
Stewards' Report.....	9
NYI Report... ..	10
NMI Report.....	11
Children's Ministries Director's Report... ..	12
Nursery Coordinator's Report... ..	13
Worship Leader's Report (Brianna)... ..	13
Worship Leader's Report (Jake).....	14

# **Annual Report of the Pastor**

**Rev. Kent Davenport**

**5/5/24**

## **Introduction**

In the Church of the Nazarene, the pastor is required to submit an annual report to the congregation each year. Though it isn't required to be delivered on a Sunday morning, I believe it to be helpful to give my annual report in the context of a worship service as it serves to remind us that everything we do as a church is an offering of worship to our Lord. Every good thing is to the glory of God, and everything short of what it should be is offered to God as well, to be redeemed, sanctified, and used for his purposes.

So today, I count it my privilege to bring to you my fifth annual report as pastor of Morgan Church of the Nazarene. Over my years here, I have spent much time on the trails at Riverside Park, and the river itself has become a sort of prayer partner for me. The song I sang this morning returns to me again and again, "Let the River Flow." The river reminds me of the movement of the Spirit. Several times God has spoken to me while I peered out at the water. I want to share three helpful images the Lord has given me.

## **Helpful Images from the River**

The first came to me on a windy day. The wind blew across the surface of the water, and if I didn't know better, I would have been convinced that the river was flowing in the opposite direction. The river appeared to be moving what I knew to be backward. And yet, I knew which direction the river flowed. And I also knew, below the surface, the river was still going the right way. In the church, sometimes we get caught up with what is on the surface. And sometimes on the surface it feels like we are moving backwards. And yet, when we are faithfully seeking the Lord, the Holy Spirit continues to work in the church and do the deep work. God is at work below the surface. Let the River Flow.

The second image came to me at a different time, while on the rainbow bridge. No matter how many times I go out to look at the river, it always looks different. The sandbars are always in different places. The depth, the strength of the current, the clarity of the water; it is always changing. And yet, it is the same river, and it keeps flowing. Things in the church are always changing; people change; seasons change, schedules change, the culture changes, the politics change, our lives change, circumstances change. Everything changes, but it is still Christ's church, and the Spirit keeps flowing. God is always at work. Let the river flow, Holy Spirit come, and move in power.

The third image is the meandering of the river. The river rarely takes the most direct route. Sometimes large sandbars look to inhibit the free flow of the river, but the water always finds its way around. Sometimes moving laterally before it can move forward. And the river itself meanders, this way and that way. Again, in the church, we meander. For better or worse, we don't often take the most direct route (sometimes this is by God's design, we have a lot of learning to do on the way). At times, it takes significant effort just to get into a position to move forward. Sometimes there are barriers that block the path and we must shift directions. And yet, with the Lord's leadership, we keep moving, the river keeps flowing. Let the River Flow – Holy Spirit come and move in power.

In all three images, the river still flows. In all our struggles, changes, and meandering, may we always be attentive to the Holy Spirit, acknowledging the Spirit is still at work in us. Let the River Flow, Holy Spirit come, and move in power.

## **The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Church**

In the scriptures, the imagery of water is used in several places. To name just a few; Jesus speaks of living water which forever quenches the thirst of the one who drinks it. Baptism waters are for repentance, forgiveness, and full acceptance into the people of God. The Holy Spirit is “poured out,” contributing to the image of water pouring over those who seek the Lord.

That imagery is found in our text, Acts 10:44-47

*<sup>44</sup> While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. <sup>45</sup> And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. <sup>46</sup> For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, <sup>47</sup> “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”*

These images of water flowing have made an impression on me in ways I cannot escape.

## **What God Has Done**

The book of Acts tells of the acts of the Holy Spirit in the early church. Before our text from chapter 10, God had already done many great things! The Spirit had been poured out on God’s people in Jerusalem. Lives had been transformed by the Spirit, and the Christian community was being formed! The Spirit had also been poured out on believers in Samaria, and even an Ethiopian from the ends of the earth was baptized. God was on the move! Peter could testify to the many acts of God up to this point in the story.

Likewise, God has been at work here, and I can testify to it! First, it is appropriate to acknowledge the faithfulness of all who came before me, before us, who laid a foundation on which to build. God has been faithfully at work here for nearly 100 years, and though the legacy is imperfect, we receive a legacy of faithfulness.

I am also incredibly thankful for last year’s board members who faithfully carried out their duties and served the church with humility. Our Stewards – Richard Lapp, Caleb Christensen, and Russel Daniel. Our Trustees – Jim Goss, Curt Christensen, and Shawn Schrum. As well as our NYI President – Cynthia Lapp and NMI President – Susan Goss. Bobby Sue Schrum was our recording secretary.

I also thank God for the gift of great staff I have the privilege of working with. Stacey Fajardo has served as the Children’s Ministry Director for several years. Now, in the new fiscal year, she has a new title, Disciples Ministries Director, and a broader range of responsibilities. Jake Fajardo and Brianna Everhart have shared the responsibility of leading our music ministries. Brianna also makes sure our nursery is staffed. Kali Christensen serves as the administrative assistant/church secretary. And Stashia Keller cleans the building each week. It is truly a joy to serve with such great people and be companions on the journey of discipleship.

And God has empowered this church for great ministry! And we do more ministry than most churches our size! We have had great ministry for children and youth. We were able to provide meals on Wednesdays from September through April. We had outreach events, our Compass Weekend, district events and camps. Many participated in the seasons of Advent and Lent together. Many participated in the ministry at Landmark last summer. A few from our church participated in the district Work & Witness project at Mission 5280. Our Compassionate

Services provided clothes and other items to about 200 people. We are involved in our community. We have done much, accomplished much, and have kept ourselves busy. But God's work isn't about measuring ministry, counting ministries, or keeping ourselves busy, but about what God does through the work of ministry in the lives of those who serve as well as those who are served. We are being formed to be a people who reflect God's character.

And ministry doesn't happen apart from the people who participate. I am grateful for all who have served in various capacities; Sunday school teachers, ushers, greeters, youth and children's volunteers, meal-preparers for Wednesday as well as those who prepared meals for those who were sick or recovering from surgery. I am thankful for all who faithfully tithe as well as others who give of their finances. Though our giving was down this past year, God has provided for the ministries of the church through His people. Our average total Sunday morning attendance was 84, in-person attendance was 76, and our list of regular volunteers is over 50. If we extend that to include all who occasionally serve, we are close to 70 people engaged in doing ministry. I have never been part of a church that has such a high percentage of its people actively engaged in ministry.

We can testify to the work of God here in this place and among His people. Work that goes far beyond lists of people and projects. God has done work in this past year to form us to be a better reflection of his character. He has formed us to be better disciples. And he is teaching us how to better make disciples. God is faithful and has faithfully worked among us in ways that cannot be measured or quantified. Let the River flow.

### **What God is Doing**

In our scripture, though God had done much already, God wasn't done yet. God was still at work, and the Holy Spirit was poured out on those Gentile believers. God was still moving in big ways, and Peter and those with him had the privilege of witnessing it! Likewise, God is still at work here, and what a privilege it is to be part of it!

Several new families are participating in the ministry. We baptized 2 on Easter. Marriages are being mended. Hearts are being softened. People are hearing the Lord's voice and feeling called to serve in new ways. God is calling some to become who they are meant to be. Some to do what they are meant to do. Others to give what they ought to give. The Holy Spirit is still working in peoples' lives today and I cherish my front-row seat!

People are eager to learn and grow and are asking questions about how to better understand the Bible. People seek Christian fellowship and encouragement. I testify to you today that the Holy Spirit is working here and now! God is presently at work transforming hearts and lives, pouring out his Spirit on those who seek Him. He is bringing redemption, wholeness, and life.

The Spirit is with us as we plan our ministries in this season, calling us once again to the community at Landmark. God is orchestrating great things beyond what we expected. God is bringing us into contact with others who seek His leadership in their lives.

The Spirit is at work in us as a church, forming us to be an authentic expression of His Kingdom. We don't just report on what God has done in the past; we declare that God is at work today! Let the River flow. Holy Spirit come and move in power!

## **What God May Do in the Future**

And in Acts 10, Peter recognized that God was at work and said, “who can withhold the water...” Who can stop what God is doing? Let the River flow. Who can stand in the way once the floodgates of Heaven are opened? And as those Gentiles were baptized and entered fully into the people of God, it changed the trajectory of the church forever. God poured out his Spirit, and the waters could not be contained. God was working beyond the imagination of the early church.

Likewise, our imagination for the church cannot be a return to the glory days of long ago when things were bigger and better, it cannot be winning the culture wars or regaining cultural relevance. We must have an ever-expanding imagination of what God might have us do and who he would have us be! We must have open minds as we allow the Spirit to lead us.

And it is my prayer that we would let the River of God flow freely here, that we would allow the Spirit of God to open our minds to see the grand things that he is at work doing! That we wouldn't get caught up in our small pictures of the church or the small boxes in which God is allowed to work, but that we would have a Spirit-filled imagination of what God could do in us and among us!

It is my heart's desire that He would pour his Spirit out on our lives, that we would be sanctified and transformed. That the oppressed would be set free, and the broken would be healed. That those who are lost would be found, that those who feel dead would find life. That all would find life. That we would drink of the living water and never be thirsty again!

Not only that all who are here would find life, but that the river of life would flow out from us and into our communities. The communities where we live. The community surrounding our church. The community at Landmark.

## **Conclusion**

Let the River flow! Holy Spirit come and move in power! In the days ahead may God lead us! May we have eyes to see what God is doing in us, among us, and around us, that we would not stand in the way of what God is doing but participate in it. That we would generously give of ourselves for the sake of the Kingdom. For the sake of the church. For the sake of one another. For the sake of the lost. That we would generously give our energies, and our time, our talents, and our resources, for the sake of what God is doing in and through His church. God has been faithful to us. And God will continue to be faithful – it is who he is.

As we enter this new fiscal year together, may we find ourselves in the flow, participating in the work God is doing in our own lives, as well as in the lives around us.

I truly count it a privilege to serve as pastor here. It is a privilege to witness the work of God in your lives. It is a privilege to walk alongside you. It is a privilege to serve with you in God's Kingdom. We are in this together. And I cannot wait to see where the movement of God takes us in the days ahead.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**Rev. Kent Davenport  
Pastor, Morgan Church of the Nazarene**

**Morgan Church Finance Report**  
**For Period Covering 05/01/2023 to 04/30/2024**

**Inflows**

Caravan Registration Fees	\$298.58
Credit Card Cash Back	\$220.96
District Grant	\$1,000.00
Facilities Expense Share	\$2,547.00
Faith Promise	\$7,496.37
Interest Inc	\$274.35
Local Benevolence Offering	\$80.00
NMI Offering	\$4,207.50
Rental Income	\$5,400.00
Tithes	\$146,484.75
Watson (In)	\$10,500.00
Wednesday Meals	\$335.25
Youth Ministries (In)	\$5,473.09

**Total Inflows \$184,317.85**

**Expenses**

Buildings & Property	\$22,168.43
Denominational Budgets	\$10,595.00
Deputation Other Missionary (Out)	\$1,736.00
Ministry	\$18,951.11
NMI Expense	\$12,782.28
Operations	\$24,313.67
Staff Salaries & Benefits	\$107,599.50
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$198,145.99</b>
Deficit for Period	\$13,828.14

Income & Expense Linechart  
05/01/2019 to 04/30/2024



Morgan Church of the Nazarene has experienced a significant financial deficit for the second consecutive year. Giving for the year was down again, and although we were able to reduce spending by a few thousand dollars over the year, the deficit was almost the same as last year.

Jim Goss



## Morgan Church NMI (Faith Promise) Report For Period Covering 05/01/2023 to 04/30/2024

### Inflows

Faith Promise		\$7,496.37
Local Benevolence Offering		\$80.00
NMI Offering		\$0.00
Alabaster	\$562.50	
Deputation	\$3,220.00	
District Benevolence (Navajo, other)	\$425.00	
Total NMI Offering		\$4,207.50
<b>Total Inflows</b>		<b>\$11,783.87</b>

### Expenses

Local Benevolence		\$1,637.40
NMI Expense		\$10.28
Alabaster	\$547.00	
Child Sponsorship Expense	\$330.00	
Deputation	\$3,420.00	
District Benevolence (Navajo, other)	\$550.00	
Missionary Christmas Fund	\$150.00	
Missionary Health Care	\$200.00	
World Evangelism Fund	\$7,575.00	
Total NMI Expense		\$12,782.28
<b>Total Expenses</b>		<b>\$14,419.68</b>
Deficit for Period		\$2,635.81

## Annual Trustees' Report

2023-2024

As a committee, the trustees are responsible for the care of all church property, staff employment reviews, setting policies in the functioning of the church, financial reviews, and putting together a budget proposal for the church board. Whew! A lot of responsibilities for volunteers.

Fortunately, there are so many talented and willing people in the church, that being a trustee isn't quite so daunting.

- The district asked us to put together a Paternity Leave Policy
- Reviewed our financial policy
- Worked on a budget proposal
- Recommended expanding Stacey's role in ministry
- Rebuilt the lawn sprinkler valve manifold
- Installed new doors in the passages between buildings
- And many other day to day maintenance items

Curt: Being able to use the talents and abilities that God has given me to further His kingdom is rewarding, and it's a blessing to see the willingness of God's people to join hands in faithful obedience to the work of the Father.

Respectfully submitted,  
Curt Christensen

Shawn: It's been a pleasure to be on the board this last couple years. I like to serve the church the best way that I can. This is help me grow spiritually, and to be closer to the Christian that I want to be.

Shawn Schrum

Jim: It's difficult for me to put into words my experience serving on the Board of Trustees for the past year. I am thankful that God has provided us with a great facility to do the Kingdom work in our community and that I can be part of the team that takes care of those facilities and the resources that God provides. I am also humbled and sometimes a little frustrated that often the job seems to be beyond my abilities at that moment. However, I know that we serve an awesome God who blesses our efforts and has helped us to get the needed work done. I'm learning that all I need to do is to remain faithful in Him, and He will provide.

Jim Goss

## Annual Stewards' Report

2023-2024

As Stewards, we oversaw and organized many different ways of blessing our church and helping those in need. From funeral dinners and monthly potlucks, to sending flowers and serving communion, we helped, organized, and participated, in the ministries of the church.

Responsibilities included:

- Organizing dinners for funerals
- Flowers for funerals
- Congregational care
- Setting up Sunday dinners
- Serving Communion
- Helping with Ushering
- Helping with Sunday morning greeting
- Organizing Sunday morning coffee bar
- Helped with Pinewood Derby and other outreach events
- Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Pastor appreciation gifts

Russel: I feel that I have drawn closer to Pastor Kent and served men and women in the church. There have been many in the church that have helped in my stewardship this year. I'm excited for the upcoming year and it's challenges. The Lord has blessed me in so many ways this year and I am glad to have such a Lord who took my place on the Cross, and that I have a great pastor and church family.

My favorite scripture that I love is Philippians 1-21: To live is Christ and to die is gain.

Respectfully submitted,  
Russel Daniel

Richard: The most fulfilling part of the past year has been seeing people participate and enjoy church meals and outreach meals. This signifies a job well done! People seeking out God's will for their life and giving us a chance in the Morgan Church to participate in their journey.

Respectfully submitted,  
Richard Lapp

Caleb: This year was my first year as a Steward, and I would say, this year I've learned that most everything our church does, it does for the people! Whether that is being willing to host funerals, inviting kids from all over to learn on Wednesday evenings, and especially helping the community with compassionate services, we have a great focus on both being, and making new disciples! It's been amazing to get a better look into all the exciting things happening and even things we are planning on doing! I am excited to see where God leads us in this upcoming year, and I pray we have the courage and understanding to follow Him when He calls.

Respectfully submitted,  
Caleb Christensen

## Annual NYI Report 2023-2024

As NYI leaders, we have the privilege to build relationships with teenagers. Through these relationships, we disciple and equip teens to live as Christians out in the real world. Our group really enjoys spending time together at game nights, volleyball nights, and Wednesday evening Bible study and fellowship. Even though we have diverse interests, ages, and abilities, the teens welcome, encourage, and include everyone. We have a great sense of belonging to a group and we continually look forward to what God will do in the lives of our teens. Although Andrea stepped down as NYI president last year, she continues to be a vital part of the ministry to our teens. She regularly leads our Jr High group while Cynthia Leads the Senior high. She also helps with planning and keeps things on track.

Highlights from the year:

- Teen camp at Golden Bell in June:
  - Message: Overcoming fear and stepping out of the boat.
  - The students were really engaged in the message and growing in their faith.
  - 10 teens and 1 adult
- Wednesday nights:
  - We split into Jr. and Sr. High groups for Bible study.
  - We joined the church in the Advent and Lent series.
  - We also studied Romans, Revelations, The Spirituality of Christ, and Characters in Genesis.
  - Average attendance of 10-14 teens and 2 adults
- PowerSurge at YMCA of the Rockies in November:
  - Message: Meeting with Jesus in the secret place.
  - The teens really enjoyed the prayer service where we prayed over each other.
  - 8 teens and 2 Adults
- Main Event in March:
  - Message: Blessing our community
  - We took two teens on their first youth trip and built upon our sense of community.
  - 5 teens and 2 adults
- Volleyball and Game nights throughout the year:
  - Growing through fellowship and fun.

This past year has been a year of growth. We grew in numbers, grew into age leveled groups, grew into new ways of teaching, and most importantly grew in our love for each other and studying God's Word. It has been exciting to watch our students accept each other and build a community where they feel safe and welcome. God is at work in our conversations, fellowship, and study. The teens challenge me to live out what we study, and I hope I am challenging them in the same way. I look forward to continuing to deepen our relationships as we continue to challenge each other and welcome in new 7<sup>th</sup> graders this summer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cynthia Lapp

## Annual NMI Report

2023-2024

The responsibilities of the NMI President remain pretty much the same from year to year: Presenting missionary lessons quarterly in Childrens Church, hosting missionaries for deputation, promoting special offerings, and preparing for Faith Promise Sunday. The Colorado District Navajo Christmas project is a major focus in late fall each year. We are finishing up another fiscal year at Morgan Nazarene and were able to accomplish these things. Thank you to all who helped in this work!

Summary of our work this year:

- In June, attended NMI conference at District Assembly in Colorado Springs.
- September: Alabaster offering received.
- October: Participated in Colorado District NMI Teams work at 5280 Movement compassionate services center.
- November: Received gifts for Navajo project and traveled to Gallup to help distribute them.
- February: Promoted and received Spring Alabaster offering.
- April: Faith Promise with Admirado Chaguala, missionary to Cote d'Ivoire, and received deputation offering for him..
- Every fifth Sunday, presented childrens missionary lessons about work in Asia-Pacific region.

It is the responsibility of the NMI President to keep the local church informed about Nazarene global mission work and to promote that work. I have often felt that I have done an inadequate job of fulfilling these responsibilities. On Faith Promise Sunday, I was disappointed that attendance was light at the services, but when the deputation offering was counted, I was thrilled to learn that we raised nearly three thousand dollars for Admirado! God is good! All the time! I'm thankful for the support I receive from Pastor Kent and many others at Morgan Nazarene, but I'm most thankful that the Lord blesses our efforts.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Goss

# **Annual Children's Ministries Director's Report**

2023-2024

This year one of my main areas of focus as the Children's Directory was the restructuring of our Caravan program. It was time for a change and being short a few volunteers made this a necessity. I believe these changes have helped to better align Caravan with our church's mission "To BE and to MAKE Christlike Disciples" and the volunteers have all given positive feedback to the changes.

## Main Responsibilities:

- Sunday children's ministries such as
  - Children's Church
  - Family Sunday- Kids' Word
  - Sunday School
  - Oversee Bible Quiz
- Plan and carry out outreach ministries such as
  - Caravan
  - Family Cookout
  - Pinewood Derby and Dinner
  - Ice Cream Social
  - Landmark
- Connect with, lead, and train volunteers in my areas of ministry.
- Build meaningful relationships with the families in my area of ministry.

Despite my title as Children's Director for over 7 years here at Morgan Church of the Nazarene, this last year I have felt a call to something more. Over the past year, I dedicated myself to discerning this calling. While it has been immensely gratifying to nurture and enhance my relationships with those volunteering in children's ministry, I have also prioritized extending this outreach to encompass a broader community. This last year I have been intentional to foster deeper connections with those in our congregation and beyond. I'm encouraged as I watch people say yes to God and begin partnering with Him in the work He is doing in our community.

As I prepare to step into a more formal role aligned with this calling within our church in the upcoming year, I eagerly anticipate the journey ahead. I am committed to continuing to partner with God and our church community as we wholeheartedly embrace our mission to "To BE and to MAKE Christlike disciples" both within and beyond our walls.

Respectfully submitted,  
Stacey Fajardo

## **Annual Nursery Organizer Report**

2023-2024

As nursery organizer I make sure that there is someone in the nursery during Sunday service. I work with wonderful women who volunteer their time to watch any babies that may show up and give the parents a chance to be in service and not have to worry about their babies.

Main Responsibilities:

- Fill nursery spots every week
- Keep nursery supplied with needed things

The most fulfilling part of my nursery work is seeing the parents and the nursery helpers grow to know each other. It's a great way and place to be introduced to people and to look forward to seeing them the next time. I've seen God work most in both the babies and the parents. Seeing the parents grow in trusting the nursery volunteers enough to leave their babies for service even when their baby is crying, but they know it's a safe place. Watching the babies become comfortable in the nursery where they are more excited to be there and more okay to see mom and dad leave. I see God working in all the spots of love, trust, and patience in everyone involved and how that work grows in each one.

Brianna Newell

## **Annual Worship Leader Report**

2023-2024

As worship leader I have the joy of working with people who love to worship God and give their time to practice and prepare to lead others in worship. I get opportunities to go to different events and lead music or help with music and worship with so many. I get to be a part of the intentionality of service, the intentionality of worshiping and bringing glory to God.

Main responsibilities:

- Choose songs for service
- Organize a worship team each week
- Lead practices and worship
- Help/lead music at other events

The most fulfilling part of being a worship leader is when a song speaks to someone. A song that I chose to sing, God used to speak to someone. Being used by God to lead others in song is the most fulfilling. I've seen God work most in the people in the congregation. How they relate to the songs. They worship, rejoice, grieve, and struggle through the songs. Songs hit them where they are in life, and they feel or hear God speak to them through the songs and it gives them the hope and joy to worship a mighty God and to make it through another week.

Brianna Newell

# Annual Worship Leader Report

2023-2024

In a shared role, I have been a worship team leader for the church. I have enjoyed leading our congregation unto the throne of the Lord God Almighty and feel I have taken the role more seriously as time progresses. On the days that I lead, I am responsible for planning the songs and music, gathering the volunteers to sing, run media and sound, and play instruments, as well as lead all through a practice prior to the Sunday Service.

I am happy and grateful to be part of this church, and part of a ministry that is very important to bringing others into praise to God. I always try and be more enthusiastic and energetic as I continue to lead worship, knowing that the position and responsibility is extremely important as we bring songs of praise to the Creator of the Universe.

## Main Responsibilities

- Song selection and practice
- Teaching/Leading
- Gathering volunteers to serve in all areas of the team
- Leading by example

The most fulfilling thing from this past year is being part of the praise team and feeling the importance of the position it serves. I have witnessed God move in my life with this responsibility and I hope the Spirit moves in others on the team. I have had good feedback from our services from the congregation who feel moved by the Spirit when we worship and that is satisfying, at the same time bringing me to humility and gratitude.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jake Fajardo