

2014 Report For The Tomlinson Run Church Of Christ

By Paul R. Blake

2014 Was A Less Difficult Year Than Past Years Have Been

- We saw a modest decrease in our attendance
- We had a quite large increase in the contribution
- In 2014, we struggled with some discouragements and setbacks, including the passing of five dear souls and longtime members of this church: Edith Nuzum, Mary Lloyd, Ken Berdine, Pansy Ice, and Taby Allison.

Ongoing Works Engaged In By This Church

- We increased support sent to preachers toward the end of the year and will continue to increase our support efforts this year.
- We had a meeting with the men of this church and have used their input to begin making changes.

Supporting the Work of the Lord

- The work of the Lord is supported by the freewill offerings of Christians, as instructed in the New Testament - 2Cor. 8:1-5
- The members of this congregation do so with purpose of heart pleased to do the will of God - Matt. 6:1-4

The Uses Made Of The Contribution As Instructed In The New Testament

- Evangelism, teaching the gospel to the lost
- Edification, building up Christians through preaching and teaching (includes providing and maintaining a place for worship and Bible study)
- Limited Benevolence, ministering to the physical needs of poor saints

Supporting Evangelism

- Phil. 4:16-17; 2Tim. 2:2
- But how are we to fund the preaching of the gospel?
- What are the scripturally authorized means and methods of supporting the work of the church?
- 1Cor. 16:1-2; 2Cor. 8:1-12

Supporting The Work Of The Church

- But who is to support this work and who is to do this work?
- Do the scriptures supply a plan?
- Every member of a local congregation has a Christ-ordained role and purpose
- Eph. 4:11-13, 16
- Do the scriptures authorize a public report of the work of the local church?
- Should we keep these matters hidden or speak openly of them?
- Acts 14:21-23, 26-27

2014 Attendance

- Average attendance was 115 on Sundays
- Represents a decrease in attendance of 5 per week over 2013
- Highest attendance was 133 on July 20th
- Lowest attendance was 98 on December 14th
- Represents a decline in attendance average of 33 over the past 9 years (2005); however, we would have to go back 12 years (2002) to find lower attendance.

- Average attendance for past years:

2013 -- 120	2005 -- 148
2012 -- 130	2004 -- 135
2011 -- 138	2003 -- 127
2010 -- 130	2002 -- 112
2009 -- 125	2001 -- 113
2008 -- 138	2000 -- 114
2007 -- 133	1999 -- 106
2006 -- 142	1996 -- 101

2014 Contributions

2014 offerings = \$177,445.87 -- Average weekly = \$3,412.42

2013 offerings = \$111,423.69 -- Average weekly = \$2,142.76

Representing an increase of \$66,022.18 from 2013

Our weekly average contribution has never been this high

2012 offerings = \$161,777.57 -- Average weekly = \$3,052.41

2011 offerings = \$144,419.49 -- Average weekly = \$2,777.30

2010 offerings = \$122,898.88 -- Average weekly = \$2,363.44

2009 offerings = \$112,671.89 -- Average weekly = \$2,166.77

2008 offerings = \$114,845.55 -- Average weekly = \$2,208.57

2007 offerings = \$114,609.13 -- Average weekly = \$2,204.02

Past years:

2006 -- \$2,393.45 2002 -- 1,936.79

2005 -- 2,295.19 2001 -- 1,808.98

2004 -- 2,218.73 2000 -- 1,616.97

2003 -- 1,936.90 1996 -- 1,238.37

Contributions = \$177,445.87

Expenditures = \$135,921.47

Difference = +\$41,524.40 (+\$798.55 per week)

The Lord has richly blessed us and the disciples who were abundant in their giving.

Supporting Evangelism in 2014

Name	Location	Monthly	For 2014
Jeremy Diestelkamp	Toronto, Canada	300.00	600.00
John Gibson	West Lafayette, Ohio	200.00	2,400.00
Joel Williams	Eshowe, South Africa	200.00	2,400.00
Mike Vierheller	East Cambridge, Ohio	200.00	2,400.00
Ethan Longhenry	Venice, California	150.00	1,800.00
T Munesh	Kurnool, India	51.67	620.00

Total monthly support for 2013 \$10,220.00

- Total Support 2013 \$14,376.40
- Total Support 2014 \$10,220.00

Supporting Evangelism in 2014

- Total preachers' support decreased last year by \$4,156.40
- Total for 2014 = \$10,220.00
- Average Monthly for 2013 = \$1,198.03
- Average Monthly for 2014 = \$851.67
- As a percentage of 2014 total expenditures = 7.5%
- Compared to 2013 = 11.2%

Supporting Evangelism in 2015

Jeremy Diestelkamp	Toronto, Canada	300.00
Ethan Longhenry	Los Angeles, CA	150.00
John Gibson	West Lafayette, OH	200.00
Mike Vierheller	East Cambridge, OH	200.00
Joel Williams	Eshowe, South Africa	200.00
T. Munesh	Kurnool, India	101.67

Total Monthly for 2015 \$1,151.67

As a percentage of 2015 estimated expenditures = 8.2%

Supporting Local Edification in 2014

- Two Gospel Meetings (Dan Petty in the Spring and Joseph Casimier in the Fall)
- A Sunday presentation by Joel Williams of the work in Eschowe, South Africa
- 6 TR men who preached here 15 times by appointment - \$75.00 per lesson
- Gary Berdine preached 9 sermons, Zach Rhodes - 1, Theron Smith - 1, Heath Baker - 1, Rick Tuttle - 1, and Ken Fleeman - 2
- Paul R. Blake's salary as evangelist plus medical insurance
- Bible class books and teaching supplies
- Total for 2014 = \$75,427.34
- As a percentage of expenses = 55.5% (Decreased by 4% over 2013)
- Combined with support for preachers elsewhere, the amount going directly for evangelism and edification is \$85,647.34
- As a percentage of total expenses = 63% (decreased by 8% over 2013)

2014 Expenditures

- Total expenditures = \$135,921.47
- Total for preaching and teaching = \$85,647.34
- Expenses = \$48,274.13 (35.5% of all expenses; increased over 2013 by 6.5%)
- Scheduled expenses: building maintenance and cleaning labor and supplies, lawn care, snow removal and salt, insurance, heating oil, electric, telephone, postage, bank fees, furnace repair, building, property, and parsonage repairs, and miscellaneous purchases.
- Our largest maintenance expense in 2014 was installing heat pumps in the auditorium - \$20,074.00 (Kell)

Benevolence

- There were two benevolent efforts, one collective one on an individual basis, in 2014.
- \$2000.00 was given from the treasury to a needy saint
- \$600.00 was given by individuals to help the victims of the Huddud Tropical Cyclone in India.

Policy of Financial Disclosure

- David Dulaney, Sr., the deacon who serves this congregation as treasurer, generates a monthly financial report posted on the bulletin board in the foyer for all to read. The elders wish for all to be informed of the fact that all uses of the offerings are limited to scripturally authorized activities for the church.

Upcoming Meetings

- Mark Copeland - Spring 2015
- Doug Roush - September 13-18, 2015
- Edwin Crozier - Spring 2016
- Jason Hardin - Fall 2016
- Donnie Rader - Spring 2017
- Andy Diestelkamp - Fall 2017
- Jason Longstreth - Spring 2018
- Doy Moyer - Fall - 2018
- Gary Wilemon - May 12-17, 2019
- Tony Mauck - Fall 2019

The Deacons

- Paul B. Blake
- Dave Dulaney, Sr.
- Ken Fleeman
- Adam Berdine
- Steve Gorby
- Jeff Rhodes
- Heath Baker

The Work of the Deacons

- Treasurer, count offering, make deposits, pay salaries and expenses
- Count Bible class attendees
- Keep Insurance policies and inspections current
- Maintain baptistery garments
- Purchase cleaning and paper supplies
- Oversee well, plumbing and septic maintenance
- Schedule Deacons in rotation to count offering
- Assist with building security
- Records maintenance/shredding
- Maintain fire extinguishers

- Assist in opening and closing the building in the janitor's absence
- Maintain fire and carbon monoxide alarms
- Schedule teachers for classes
- Conduct annual fire drill
- Keep a roster of teachers and students
- Maintain First Aid Kit and safety supplies
- Order all class materials
- Taking Bible class attendance
- Taking attendance
- Schedule readers, waiting on the table
- Prepare minutes of elder's meetings
- Record sermons and Bible classes
- Oversee lawn, cemetery and tractor maintenance
- Assist with building security
- Maintain communion preparation schedule
- Monitor and order heating oil for the building and parsonage
- Maintain communion supplies
- Oversee furnace and air conditioning maintenance
- Schedule song leaders
- Assist with building maintenance outside scope of janitorial duties
- Direct themed song services
- Assist counting offering
- Select scriptures for Sunday readings
- Maintain emergency call list
- Add prayer list and notifications to Facebook page
- Escort elderly and disabled in and out of the building
- Assist visitors to find seating and amenities
- Participate in emergency notifications
- Assistance during power failures and fire drills

TR Website

- Over half million visitors in 2013; it was down twice this year for various reasons
- Over 2100 study guides, outlines, charts, bulletins, audio sermons, reference works, classbooks, search engine, links, contact information, etc.
- At present, there are 9 people the taking correspondence courses from the website
- I receive emails every week about the website
- Updated every week
- New and upcoming features:
- Sketching the Scriptures; page with single panel copy and paste Bible themed jpegs that can be inserted into a bulletin
- Online Bible Correspondence courses; seven courses of six lessons written by Tim Fleeman; up as soon as we can get a fillable format template

- Children's Bible Study page; initially set up with Bible pictures drawn by the children here, with a fillable format answer sheet; will be similar to Alvin's children's Bible drill.

Caring for the Building

- The Jeff Rhodes family takes care of the building. Be certain to encourage them in this.
- Eric, Sheila, and Devin Martin take care of the lawn.
- Dan Snider snow plows the parking lot, and I salt it when he is done.

Plans for 2015

- We will be distributing the following to the members of this congregation: a copy of the minutes of the December 21, 2014 meeting of the elders and deacons with all of the men of this congregation, and a copy of the relevant portion of the minutes of the January 12, 2015 meeting of the elders and deacons where we implemented the ideas and concerns presented in the December meeting.
- We will be holding a similar meeting on a yearly basis for the foreseeable future.
- We will begin training David Dulaney Jr. and Theron Smith to teach the adult Bible class. When Gary has finished his current material, David will begin. When I have finished my material, I will teach the combined teen classes using contemporary multimedia materials, and Ken Fleeman will teach my class for two quarters.
- Gary has agreed to share fifth Sunday preaching duties with the other men here who can preach or are learning to preach. One of our goals as elders is to prepare men to become elders, and teaching and preaching is a great way to fulfill that.
- We will be inquiring to see if there is an interest in returning to the men's and women's classes that used to meet for 4 to 6 weeks before each meeting.
- We have selected material for a men's training class and Ken Fleeman will teach that class. It will meet here at the building during our regularly scheduled Bible classes. The elders will be giving specific invitations to the men we believe will profit from it.
- The elders will begin visiting every member of this congregation to become better acquainted and to learn if there are needs you have that we as elders can serve.
- We are changing our scheduled time for weekday gospel meeting services from 7:30 to 7:00 PM
- The elders wish to encourage more interaction among the disciples apart from worship and Bible study. We are encouraging as individual efforts apart from the work of the church, in home gatherings for various groups here at TR:
 - We already have an in-depth adult Bible class at the Jones' home once each month, attended by 12 to 15 students.
 - We would like to encourage one in the Fleeman home for young and middle aged couples on marriage enrichment
 - We would like to encourage someone arrange for the young people to get together, not for a formal Bible study, but more of a devotional type gathering where they are free to structure it in a way comfortable for them

- It would be good to have something for the sisters who are alone; perhaps they can get together to encourage one another and find good works to do as a group
- It would be good to have a group of TR folks go to nursing homes on Saturdays or Sundays to sing and read scripture with the residents
- It would be encouraging to have a few more gatherings, picnics, and potlucks, regardless of the time of year, where we can spend time together socially apart from our fellowship here.
- These all fall under the NT instructions for Christians to be hospitable. While this will not be a work of the church nor directed by the elders, it is a work that all Christians should take joy in hosting and participating.
- Being a sound church is not about what you are not doing. Just because we don't have fellowship hall, don't get the idea we are sound. A sound church has members who practice hospitality, not just condemn fellowship halls.
- It is important to avoid crossovers in these groups; it dilutes their purpose and effect; no 60-somethings at the young parents gatherings, etc.
- Invite everyone who needs to be part of the group; exclude no one; make personal invitations; don't assume they know they are welcome.
- Dismiss no invitation on the basis of who made it; discrimination will undermine this.
- These things will not only increase our family love for one another here and give every member a chance to be a part of the whole, but it often leads to opportunities for personal evangelism.

Conclusion:

- A. There are a number of good things going on here right now; there are a number of good things planned for the future.
- B. How can we reverse the malaise and slump into which we have fallen? We start by reviving our spirits, then we revive one another, then we revive interest in the Gospel in this community, then we revive the number of souls gathered here... sounds like quite a revival.
- C. Psalm 133:1 - "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is For brethren to dwell together in unity!"