

# 2016 Report for the Tomlinson Run Church of Christ

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake)

## I. AUTHORIZED BY GOD

- A. How the work of the Lord is to be supported
  - 1. The uses made of the contribution as instructed in The New Testament
  - 2. How Evangelism is to be supported
  - 3. How Edification and Limited Benevolence is to be supported
  - 4. The scriptures authorize a public report of the work of the local church
- B. How the work is supported here
  - 1. The work of the Lord is supported by the freewill offerings of Christians, as instructed in the Word - 2Cor. 8:1-5
  - 2. The members of this congregation do so with purpose of heart, pleased to do the will of God without public acknowledgement - Matt. 6:1-4
- C. The uses made of the contribution as instructed in the New Testament:
  - 1. Evangelism: teaching the gospel to the lost
  - 2. Edification: building up Christians through preaching and teaching (includes providing and maintaining a place for worship and Bible study)
  - 3. Limited Benevolence: ministering to the physical needs of poor saints
- D. How evangelism is supported
  - 1. Phil. 4:16-17; 2Tim. 2:2
  - 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
- E. But who is to support this work and who is to do this work? Do the scriptures supply a plan?
  - 1. Every member of a local congregation has a Christ-ordained role and purpose - Eph. 4:11-13, 16
- F. 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?
  - 1. The Bible authorizes a public report - Acts 14:21-23, 26-27

## II. 2016 EVENTS AND WORK ACCOMPLISHED

- A. We saw a small decrease in our attendance.
  - 1. We noted a small decrease in our offerings, but an even larger decrease in spending for maintenance.
  - 2. We experienced the passing of two disciples, Gene Minnis and Frank Reed. A few members moved away, and several of our young folks went away to college.
  - 3. We witnessed a few persons restored by confession
  - 4. We had two Gospel meetings with Edwin Crozier in the Spring and Jason Hardin in the Fall
  - 5. We had two weekend presentations by David Raif of Philadelphia, and Joe Hamm of Philadelphia
  - 6. We fully transitioned to using hymn projection for all services

7. We obtained PA state mandated clearances for our children's Bible class teachers
- B. We engaged in spiritual work projects:
1. We finished and uploaded a ten lesson online Bible correspondence course, and a number of persons have already completed it.
  2. We continued to expand our number of Bible class teachers, including in the adult Bible class
  3. We integrated two more young men into our preaching rotation, and have plans for others
  4. We completed a study on improving the effectiveness of our teaching and study, and have already seen encouraging results in these matters
  5. We increased the amount of support we send to evangelists from January through September
  6. A meeting of the elders and deacons with all of the men of this congregation took place on June 5, 2016, and a copy of the relevant portion of the minutes of that meeting and the July 11, 2016 meeting of the elders and deacons where we implemented the ideas and concerns presented in the June meeting. We will continue the practice of holding similar meetings on a yearly basis for the good of this congregation.
- C. A number of in-home Bible study efforts began in 2015, continued in 2016, and will meet in 2017:
1. The young people's gathering at the Baker residence
  2. The ladies' Bible study at the Berdine residence
  3. The ongoing indepth adult Bible study at the Jones' residence
  4. There is an informal, but very detailed Bible study going on here at the building on Tuesday mornings for two hours
- D. On an individual and not congregational basis, we are seeing more visiting take place as well as an increase in social activities among the members. This is an encouraging development.
1. We have noted that some disciples take their families, children and others and visit the sick and shut-ins to sing, pray, and read scripture with them. This is a wonderful work. I would like to encourage others to become involved, and to possibly carry this activity to area nursing homes as well.
  2. These all fall under the NT instructions for Christians to be hospitable. While these will not be works of the church nor directed by the elders, they are works that all Christians should take joy in hosting and participating.
  3. Being a sound church is not about what we are not doing. Not having a fellowship hall isn't evidence of soundness. A sound church has members who practice hospitality.
  4. Invite everyone who needs to be part of the group; exclude no one; make personal invitations; don't assume they know they are welcome.
  5. Dismiss no invitation on the basis of who made it; discrimination will undermine this.

6. 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.

E. We engaged a few physical work projects:

1. The parking lot was resealed
2. The basement class rooms were painted
3. The pews were repaired and moved
4. A bannister was constructed in the pulpit area
5. The cemetery was cleaned and the fallen stones restored upright
6. All of these works were done by volunteers, to whom the elders express their sincere gratitude

### III. 2016 ATTENDANCE

A. Average attendance was 106 on Sundays

1. Represents a decrease in attendance of 5 per week over 2015
2. Highest attendance - 126, May 8<sup>th</sup>; Lowest attendance - 90, Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>
4. Represents a decline in attendance average of 42 over the past 10 years (2005); however, we would have to go back 19 years (1998) to find lower attendance.

B. Average attendance for past years: 2016 -- 106

2015 -- 111	2006 -- 142
2014 -- 115	2005 -- 148
2013 -- 120	2004 -- 135
2012 -- 130	2003 -- 127
2011 -- 138	2002 -- 112
2010 -- 130	2001 -- 113
2009 -- 125	2000 -- 114
2008 -- 138	1999 -- 106
2007 -- 133	1996 -- 101

### IV. 2016 CONTRIBUTIONS

2016 offerings = \$121,536.62 -- Average weekly = \$2,337.24

2015 offerings = \$129,497.11 -- Average weekly = \$2,490.33

Represents a decrease of \$7,960.49 from 2015 or \$153.09 weekly

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

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

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

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 = \$121,536.63  
 Expenditures = \$136,381.88  
 Difference = - \$14,845.26 (\$285.49 per week)

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

**V. SUPPORTING EVANGELISM IN 2016**

Name:	Location:	Per Month:	For the Year:
Jeremy Diestelkamp	Toronto, Canada	300.00	3,600.00
John Gibson	West Lafayette, Ohio	200.00	1,800.00
Joe Hamm	Philadelphia, PA	500.00	6,000.00
Ethan Longhenry	Venice, California	150.00	1,800.00
T Munesh	Kurnool, India	125.11	1,126.00
Ruben Sacche	Urbina, Guatemala	278.48	3,341.76
Michael Stephens	Wellandport, Canada	300.00	2,700.00
Mike Vierheller	East Cambridge, Ohio	200.00	1,800.00
Joel Williams	Eshowe, South Africa	400.00	4,040.00

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 Total support for 2016 \$26,967.76

A. We increased our support of Joe Hamm in Philadelphia to \$500.00 per month in January 2016

1. We ended our support of Michael Stephens, T. Munesh, John Gibson, and Mike Vierheller in September 2016.
2. Michael Stephens had sufficient support
3. John Gibson and Mike Vierheller had changes in their financial situations that facilitated ending our support. We have helped to support them for over 20 years and appreciated their good labor.
4. T. Munesh began to engage institutional practices and would not change even though admonished several times

B. Supporting Evangelism in 2016

Total Support 2015 \$24,849.92  
 Total Support 2016 \$26,967.76  
 Total support increased last year by \$2,117.84  
 Average Monthly for 2015 = \$2070.83  
 Average Monthly for 2016 = \$2,247.31  
 As a percentage of 2016 total expenditures = 20%  
 Compared to 2015 total expenditures = 17%

C. Projected Support for Evangelism in 2017

Name:	Location:	Monthly:	Year:
Jeremy Diestelkamp	Toronto, Canada	\$300.00	\$3,600.00
Joe Hamm	Philadelphia, PA	500.00	6,000.00
Ethan Longhenry	Venice, California	150.00	1,800.00
Ruben Sacche	Urbina, Guatemala	278.48	3,341.76
Joel Williams	Eshowe, South Africa	400.00	4,800.00

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 Total Monthly for 2017 \$1,628.48 \$19,541.76

D. As a percentage of 2017 estimated expenditures = 16.3%

## **VI. SUPPORTING LOCAL EDIFICATION IN 2016**

- A. Two Gospel Meetings (Edwin Crozier in the Spring & Jason Hardin in the Fall)
  - 1. Weekend presentations by David Raif and Joe Hamm of Philadelphia
  - 2. Seven men who preached here by appointment (\$75.00 per lesson):
  - 3. Zach Rhodes, Ken Fleeman, Theron Smith, Jacob Doughty, Sam Berdine, Heath Baker, and Shawn Mercer
  - 4. Paul R. Blake's salary as evangelist plus medical insurance
  - 5. Bible class books and teaching supplies
- B. Total for 2016 = \$78,842.83
  - 1. As a percentage of expenses = 58% (Increased by 4.7% over 2015)
  - 2. Combined with support for preachers elsewhere, the amount going directly for evangelism and edification is \$105,810.59
  - 3. Percentage of total expenses = 77.6% (increased by 5.6% over 2015)
  - 4. That is completely unprecedented in my experience!

## **VII. 2016 EXPENDITURES**

- A. Total expenditures = \$136,381.88
  - 1. Total for preaching and teaching = \$105,810.59
  - 2. Expenses = \$30,571.29 (23% of total expenditures; decreased over 2015 by 6%)
  - 3. 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.
  - 4. Our largest single maintenance expense in 2016 was adding the railing in the pulpit area (\$1,413.73 to Pleasant View Furniture)
- B. 2016 Limited Benevolence
  - 1. There were no benevolent needs that required use of the local church treasury to relieve.
  - 2. There were numerous individual benevolent efforts by kind hearted and generous disciples here. Some known to me; most are known only to the persons involved and the Lord, Who openly rewards good deeds done in secret.
- C. Policy of Financial Disclosure: David Dulaney, Sr., the deacon who serves this congregation as treasurer, generates a monthly financial report distributed to the elders and deacons, and 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.

## **VIII. UPCOMING GOSPEL MEETINGS**

- Donnie Rader - Spring 2017 - April 2-7
- Andy Diestelkamp - Fall 2017 - September 24-29
- Jason Longstreth - Spring 2018
- Doy Moyer - Fall - 2018
- Gary Wilemon - Spring 2019 May 12-17

Tony Mauck - Fall 2019  
Steve Wolfgang - Spring 2020  
Nathan Ward - Fall 2020  
Art Adams - Spring 2021  
Edwin Crozier - Fall 2021  
Antoine Holloway - Spring 2022  
Ethan Longhenry - Fall 2022  
Doug Roush - Spring 2023  
Rick Liggin - Fall 2023

## **IX. THE DEACONS**

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

B. 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 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
- Salting the parking lot
- 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  
Operate the projection of songs during services  
Many, MANY un-noticed, un-thanked tasks!

**C. Caring for the Building**

1. The Jeff Rhodes family takes care of cleaning and maintaining the building, preparing the communion for half of the year, and salting the parking lot. Thank them for their good efforts!
2. Eric and Sheila Martin take care of the lawn.
3. Greg Six is the contractor who currently plows snow in the parking lot.

**X. TR WEBSITE**

- A. Nearly 3000 study guides, sermon outlines, charts, bulletins, audio sermons, reference works, class books, search engine, links, contact information, etc
- B. At present, there are 3 people taking the mail in correspondence courses from the website; dozens of people have taken the online course
- C. I receive emails every week about the website; it is updated every week
- D. Planned for 2018: Children's Bible Study page; initially set up with Bible pictures drawn by the children here, with a fillable format answer sheet.

**XI. PLANS FOR 2017**

- A. We are going to have Donnie V. Rader for our Spring Gospel Meeting and Andy Diestelkamp for our fall Gospel Meeting.
- B. We plan to maintain current levels of support for Gospel preachers
- C. We will continue to upgrade the website adding a children's Bible study page.
- D. We encourage in home Bible study efforts to continue as well as to grow in the number of persons involved. We would also encourage groups of disciples to visit area nursing homes to hold Bible study and singing efforts.
- E. We are planning to resurface the parking lot this summer to preserve a safe parking area for members and visitors.
- F. We will begin studying Fellowship in the Monday indepth adult Bible class and complete the study on Grace in the adult class. By the end of the year, I hope to publish both class books for use by brethren everywhere.
- G. Most importantly, we will engage the work of endeavoring to appoint additional elders and deacons by year's end
- H. As always, we strongly encourage you to be diligent in efforts to find persons with whom you can share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Conclusion: Psalm 133:1