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*2015 Report For
The Tomlinson Run
Church Of Christ*

2015 Was A Quiet Year Relative to Past Years

- We saw a modest decrease in our attendance.
- We saw a significant decrease in the contribution.
- We experienced the passing of one disciple, Ken Ice, the discipline of two erring sisters, three Christians moved their membership
- At the same time, we witnessed five persons restored by confession, and three baptisms: Alissa Smith, Eddy Krupa, and Alexis Rhodes.

2015 Report For The Tomlinson Run Church Of Christ

- How the work of the Lord is to be supported
- The uses made of the contribution as instructed in The New Testament
- How Evangelism is to be supported
- How Edification and Limited Benevolence is to be supported
- The scriptures authorize a public report of the work of the local church

How the Work is Supported

- The work of the Lord is supported by the freewill offerings of Christians, as instructed in the Word
 - 2Cor. 8:1-5 - “Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God.”

How the Work is Supported

- 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 - “Take heed that you do not do your charitable deeds before men, to be seen by them. Otherwise you have no reward from your Father in heaven. Therefore, when you do a charitable deed, do not sound a trumpet before you as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory from men. Assuredly, I say to you, they have their reward. But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your charitable deed may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will Himself reward you openly.”

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

How Evangelism is Supported

- Phil. 4:16-17 - “For even in Thessalonica you sent aid once and again for my necessities. Not that I seek the gift, but I seek the fruit that abounds to your account.”
- 2Tim. 2:2 - “And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also”

How Evangelism is Supported

- 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 - “Now concerning the collection for the saints, as I have given orders to the churches of Galatia, so you must do also: On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper, that there be no collections when I come.”
 - 2Cor. 8:1-12

How Evangelism is Supported

- “Moreover, brethren, we make known to you the grace of God bestowed on the churches of Macedonia: 2 that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded in the riches of their liberality. 3 For I bear witness that according to their ability, yes, and beyond their ability, they were freely willing, 4 imploring us with much urgency that we would receive the gift and the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. 5 And not only as we had hoped, but they first gave themselves to the Lord, and then to us by the will of God. 6 So we urged Titus, that as he had begun, so he would also complete this grace in you as well.”

2Corinthians 8:7-12

- “But as you abound in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all diligence, and in your love for us--see that you abound in this grace also. 8 I speak not by commandment, but I am testing the sincerity of your love by the diligence of others. 9 For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich. 10 And in this I give advice: It is to your advantage not only to be doing what you began and were desiring to do a year ago; 11 but now you also must complete the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to desire it, so there also may be a completion out of what you have. 12 For if there is first a willing mind, it is accepted according to what one has, and not according to what he does not have.”

How Edification is Supported

- But who is to support this work and who is to do this work?
- Do the scriptures supply a plan?

How Edification is Supported

- Every member of a local congregation has a Christ-ordained role and purpose
 - Eph. 4:11-13, 16 - “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ... 16 from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

The Bible Authorizes a Public Report

- 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?

The Bible Authorizes a Public Report

- Acts 14:21-23, 26-27 - “And when they had preached the gospel to that city and made many disciples, they returned to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch, strengthening the souls of the disciples, exhorting them to continue in the faith, and saying, We must through many tribulations enter the kingdom of God. So when they had appointed elders in every church, and prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed... 26 From there they sailed to Antioch, where they had been commended to the grace of God for the work which they had completed. Now when they had come and gathered the church together, they reported all that God had done with them, and that He had opened the door of faith to the Gentiles.”

2015 Work Accomplished

- A 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 that meeting and 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 significantly increased support sent to preachers last year and will hold at that figure for the foreseeable future.
- We published our own online Bible correspondence course in ten lessons with fifteen questions in each lesson in fillable html format. I wrote the lessons and questions, and Adam & Sam Berdine developed them for online use.

2015 Work Accomplished

- David Dulaney Jr. was included in the adult Bible class teaching rotation, and Theron Smith is soon to follow. Ken Fleeman and Heath Baker continue to get experience with the adult class.
- Gary Berdine has shared fifth Sunday preaching duties with the other men of this congregation. We are meeting our goal as elders to prepare men to become elders, and teaching and preaching is a great way to do that.
- We had a men's training class taught by Ken Fleeman. We will continue to hold men's training classes on a periodic basis.

2015 Work Accomplished

- We purchased a larger screen and a better projector for the auditorium and began projecting the songs for singing services.
- We changed our scheduled time for weekday gospel meeting services from 7:30 to 7:00 PM.
- We moved the Sunday AM worship period from 10:20 to 10:25 to accommodate the use of the facilities between services, and upgraded the basement restrooms for comfort and convenience.

2015 Work Accomplished

- A number of in-home Bible study efforts were begun, and they will continue in 2016:
 - The young people's gathering at the Baker residence
 - The marriage enrichment class begun in the Fleeman residence, now moved to a classroom here at the building
 - The ladies' Bible study at the Berdine residence
 - The ongoing indepth adult Bible study at the Jones' residence
 - There is an informal, but very detailed Bible study going on here at the building on Tuesday mornings for two hours
 - There is a Bible study taking place at Fox Nursing Home from 2:00 to 3:00 PM on Fridays.

2015 Work Accomplished

- 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.
 - 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.
 - 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.

2015 Work Accomplished

- Being a sound church is not about what we 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.
- 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.

2015 Attendance

- Average attendance was 111 on Sundays
- Represents a decrease in attendance of 4 per week over 2014
- Highest attendance was 130 on May 17th
- Lowest attendance was 88 on February 1st
- Represents a decline in attendance average of 37 over the past 9 years (2005); however, we would have to go back 16 years (1999) to find lower attendance.

2015 Attendance

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

2015 Contributions

- 2015 offerings = \$129,497.11 -- Average weekly = \$2,490.33
- 2014 offerings = \$177,445.87 -- Average weekly = \$3,412.42
- Representing a decrease of \$47,948.76 from 2014
- 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

2015 Contributions

- 2006 -- \$2,393.45
- 2005 -- 2,295.19
- 2004 -- 2,218.73
- 2003 -- 1,936.90
- 2002 -- 1,936.79
- 2001 -- 1,808.98
- 2000 -- 1,616.97
- 1996 -- 1,238.37

- Contributions = \$129,497.11
- Expenditures = \$146,978.34
- Difference = - \$17,481.23 (\$336.18 per week)
- The Lord has richly blessed us and the disciples who were abundant in giving.

Supporting Evangelism in 2015

• Art Adams	Plymouth, IN		1,000.00
• Jeremy Diestelkamp	Toronto, Canada	300.00	3,600.00
• John Gibson	West Lafayette, Ohio	200.00	2,400.00
• Joe Hamm	Philadelphia, PA	300.00	4,000.00
• Ethan Longhenry	Venice, California	150.00	1,800.00
• T Munesh	Kurnool, India	102.17	1,226.00
• Ruben Sacche	Urbina, Guatemala	278.48	1,383.92
• Michael Stephens	Wellandport, Canada	300.00	3,000.00
• Mike Vierheller	East Cambridge, Ohio	200.00	2,400.00
• Joel Williams	Eshowe, South Africa	400.00	4,040.00
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• Total support for 2015			\$24,849.92

Supporting Evangelism in 2015

- Total Support 2014 \$10,220.00
- Total Support 2015 \$24,849.92
- Total support increased last year by \$14,629.92
- Average Monthly for 2014 = \$851.67
- Average Monthly for 2015 = \$2070.83
- As a percentage of 2015 total expenditures = 17%
- Compared to 2014 = 7.5%

Supporting Evangelism in 2016

- Jeremy Diestelkamp Toronto, Canada 300.00
- John Gibson West Lafayette, Ohio 200.00
- Joe Hamm Philadelphia, PA 300.00
- Ethan Longhenry Venice, California 150.00
- T Munesh Kurnool, India 102.17
- Ruben Sacche Urbina, Guatemala 278.48
- Michael Stephens Wellandport, Canada 300.00
- Mike Vierheller East Cambridge, Ohio 200.00
- Joel Williams Eshowe, South Africa 400.00
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- Total Monthly for 2016 \$2,230.65
- As a percentage of 2016 estimated expenditures = 17%

Supporting Local Edification in 2015

- Two Gospel Meetings (Mark Copeland in the Spring and Doug Roush in the Fall)
- Weekend presentations by Mike Stephens of Wellandport, Canada, and Jeremy Diestelkamp of Toronto, Canada
- Five TR men who preached here 7 times by appointment - \$75.00 per lesson
- Gary Berdine preached 2 sermons, Zach Rhodes - 1, Theron Smith - 1, Heath Baker - 1, and Ken Fleeman - 2
- Paul R. Blake's salary as evangelist plus medical insurance
- Bible class books and teaching supplies

Supporting Local Edification in 2015

- Total for 2015 = \$78,312.32
- As a percentage of expenses = 53.3% (Decreased by 2.2% over 2014)
- Combined with support for preachers elsewhere, the amount going directly for evangelism and edification is \$103,162.24
- As a percentage of total expenses = 72% (increased by 9% over 2014)

2015 Expenditures

- Total expenditures = \$146,978.34
- Total for preaching and teaching = \$103,162.24
- Expenses = \$42,816.10 (29.1% of all expenses; decreased over 2014 by 6.4%)
- 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 2015 was upgrading the basement restrooms - \$12,400.00 (Kenneth Reed Construction)

2015 Limited Benevolence

- There was one collective benevolent effort assisting a disciple in need on a one time basis in 2015 in the amount of \$1,000.00
- There was one benevolence effort given by individuals in the amount of \$2,575.00 to assist the disciples of the Kurnool, India church of Christ who suffered loss of their homes in the Huddud Cyclone of 2014. Brother T. Munesh used the balance of the gift (\$1,105.00) to purchase a used motor scooter to travel for his Bible studies.

2014 Expenditures

- 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 Gospel Meetings

- 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
- Operate the projection of songs during services

TR Website

- 622,000 hits in 2015 (71 per hour), with 81,000 visitors viewing more than one page per visit, averaging 222 per day (9 per hour).
- Over 2500 study guides, outlines, charts, bulletins, audio sermons, reference works, class books, search engine, links, contact information, etc.
- At present, there are 7 people taking mail in correspondence courses from the website; 16 people have taken the online course
- I receive emails every week about the website, and it is updated every week
- Planned for 2016: Children's Bible Study page; initially set up with Bible pictures drawn by the children here, with a fillable format answer sheet.

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.
- Greg Six snow plows the parking lot. I salt it when he is finished.

Plans for 2016

- We are going to have Edwin Crozier for our Spring Gospel Meeting and Jason Hardin for our Gospel Meeting in Fall.
- We plan to maintain the support level for the Gospel preachers currently assisted
- We will continue to upgrade the website adding a children's Bible study page and develop a mobile-friendly format.
- 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.

Plans for 2016

- We are planning to resurface the parking lot this summer to preserve a safe parking area for members and visitors.
- We will be doing some maintenance at the parsonage and installing a safety railing in the pulpit area.
- As always, we strongly encourage you to be diligent in efforts to find persons with whom you can share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.



Psalm 133:1 - “Behold, how good
and how pleasant it is For brethren
to dwell together in unity!”