

COVENANT CHRONICLE

A NEWSLETTER FOR COVENANT CHURCH PCA OF FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS

Pastor's Note

Dr. Paul Sagan



On Tuesday morning February 17th, 2015 our beloved Richard "Dick" Chewning went to be with the Lord. His passing was sudden and while not surprising given his many health struggles, it was still unexpected. His enormous spiritual presence and huge personality will be greatly missed here on earth.

I hope we at Covenant are not so overtaken with loss that we forget the great Gospel truths that Dick loved to sit under at Covenant and to impart to others. I would encourage all

who miss Dick's teaching to purchase or check out of the church library Dick's book, *Becoming Partakers of the Divine Nature*. Indeed it is his spiritual legacy to the church. Personally, I can hear Dick's voice when I open its pages and read the wisdom that Dick so often shared in his teaching and personal ministry at Covenant.

What is true of Abel in Hebrews 11:4 is also true of Dick's life. God accepted Dick's offering of his gifts for service, and like Abel in the Faith Hall of Fame, he serves as an example for us. "Through his faith, though he died, he still speaks." (Heb 11:4 ESV)

Here are a few of the things that the life of Dick Chewning speaks to us at Covenant:

First and foremost it speaks to his love for the Gospel. Dick reveled in the message of God's grace for sinners. It was at Dick's suggestion that we adopted the church motto: "Apart from Christ we can do nothing"

Right after a love for the Triune God of the Scriptures was a passionate love for people. One family member described it as "big love." Foremost in his love was his deep affection for

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*Our purpose is to glorify God by
loving Him and loving people.*

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Shirley and his family. He never missed an opportunity to speak of how much he loved Shirley, and all of his children, and grandchildren.

Dick loved to mentor young people. His sincere concern and interest in loving people and discipling them was a great example of spiritual leadership.

Dick was a churchman. He loved Covenant Church. His last Sunday on earth was marked by attendance at public worship and Sunday School. He regretted that he didn't have the strength to return to Sunday evening worship that night (which was cancelled due to weather). He never missed a stated Elder meeting or prayer meeting unless he was providentially hindered which was extremely rare. In

addition few Christians have served the broader church more than Dick Chewning. He served as a board member and advisor for numerous Christian institutions, and I have yet to hear of anyone else who has been a three time Moderator of General Assembly in a Presbyterian denomination.

Several people have commented on the "hole" in our congregation left by Dick's absence from our midst. Indeed he for many years occupied a big space at Covenant. Let us not be discouraged but rather confident in the grace of the Lord Jesus, which supplies us with everything we need to carry out the work God has given us to do. Let us rejoice that Dick is absent from the body is present with the Lord and has joined that great cloud of witnesses cheering us on to victory.

CWI

Stephen Atkinson

Please pray for safe travels to and from the following the meetings.

22 March – Grace Presbyterian, Springfield, Illinois

22 March – Orland Park OPC, Chicago, Illinois

23 March – Grace Presbyterian, Hudson, Ohio

24 March – Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

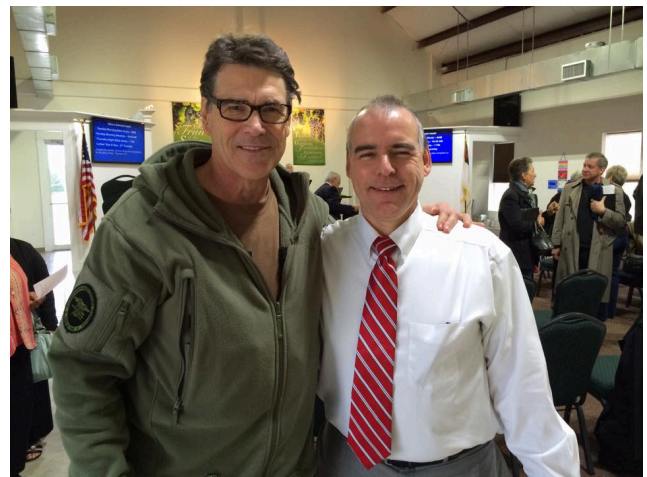
(3 hour evening Lecture on Jewish Mission)

25 March – RPTS Pittsburgh PA, Chapel Service

27 March – Reformed Presbyterian Church, Manhattan, Kansas

28 March – New Hope Baptist Church, Seneca, Kansas

29 March – Trinity Baptist Church, Wamego, Kansas



Never know to whom you'll be preaching. Met Texas Governor Rick Perry on a recent trip.

29 March – Christ Covenant Church, Lawrence, Kansas

1 April – Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Jackson, Mississippi (Christ in the Passover)

5 April – Grace Presbyterian, Grenada Mississippi (Missions Sunday)

6-9 April – Twin Lakes Fellowship, Jackson Mississippi

Financial Reports

Dennis L. Smith

Description	2014 Actual	2014 Budget	2015 Budget
Tithes/Offerings	250,031.93	251,501.00	251,501.00
Total Income	250,031.93	251,501.00	251,501.00
Expense			
Total Benevolence	13,739.01	13,600.00	16,200.00
Total Gen. Expense	12,062.42	12,281.00	12,300.00
Total Ministry	10,607.44	12,750.00	12,750.00
Total Payroll Expenses	167,699.57	168,405.00	153,765.00
Total Property	34,472.31	44,465.00	51,450.00
Total Expense	238,580.75	251,501.00	246,465.00
Net Surplus/Deficit	11,451.18	0.00	5,036.00

Announcements

Faith Promise Cards: This Sunday March 15th is the last day to turn in Faith Promise commitment cards for the purpose of determining the 2015-16 Missions Budget. To date there has been approximately \$40,000.00 committed to missions through faith promise and memorials for Dick Chewning. You may make a Faith Promise for missions at any time you are led to do so throughout the year." Please note the corrected spelling of "commitment" and "committed" and I changed "can" to "may" and "through" to "throughout."

New Members Class: Pastor Paul will lead a New Members Class last Sunday of every month from

3:00P.M. to 5:00P.M. for those who are interested in learning more about Covenant Church.

Adult Sunday School: Beginning April 12, Pastor Paul will conduct a short Sunday school course entitled "Justification by Faith Alone" during the regular Sunday school hour (9:45A.M. – 10:30A.M.)

Session Meeting: Our stated Session meeting is next Tuesday, March 17th, meeting at 5PM for prayer and 6PM for church business.

Call for Volunteers

Do you have desktop publishing experience or have a desire to gain further experience creating and designing newsletters and professional communications? Please consider volunteering your time and talents in the furtherance of God's kingdom by publishing the *Covenant Chronicle*. The communications committee seeks new members to assist in presenting Covenant Church's vision and mission to its membership and the public. Please contact Dr. John Redwine if you'd like to be a part of this valuable effort.

CONTACTS

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