

# COVENANT CHRONICLE

## A NEWSLETTER FOR COVENANT CHURCH PCA OF FAYETTEVILLE, ARKANSAS

### Pastor's Note

Dr. Paul Sagan



Our purpose at Covenant Church is to glorify God by loving Him and keeping His commandments. The primary way we do this is by gathering at the appointed times for worship and participating in the ordinary means of grace that God uses to perfect the saints. The Westminster Confession of Faith puts it this way in chapter 25, section three:

Unto this catholic visible Church Christ hath given the ministry, oracles, and ordinances of God, for the gathering and perfecting of the saints, in this life to the end of the world: and doth, by His own presence and Spirit, according to His promise, make them effectual thereunto. (1 Cor. 12:28; Eph. 4:11,12,13; Matt. 28:19,20; Isa. 59:21)

The Scriptures cited by the Westminster divines make it clear that this takes place primarily through the preaching ministry of the Word in our morning worship.

I was recently privileged with Stephen Atkinson to attend the Twin Lakes minister's fellowship hosted by my home church in the PCA, 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church of Jackson, Mississippi at their incredible retreat center, Twin Lakes. The emphasis of the conference was the

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

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ordinary means of grace ministry of the local church.

If you are of a mind you can listen to some of the past lectures from this website, hopefully the lectures from the April 2014 sessions will be up soon, <http://www.twinlakesfellowship.com>.

I had two takeaways from the conference that I would like us to consider as the congregation and leadership of Covenant. First to make the worship of God and the ministry of the Word the highest priority of Covenant church:

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is

the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near. (Heb. 10:24-25 ESV)

Second, I would like to stress the importance of the mid-week prayer meeting. We learned from RTS professor, Dr. Douglas Kelley, that it was first instituted by John Calvin in Geneva, Switzerland. Calvin understood from the scriptures that the advance of the kingdom of God was utterly and totally dependent on the ordinary means of grace through the Word of God, the sacraments, and the collective prayers of the church. It is from these ministries flow the power of God to build His Kingdom.

## Christian Witness to Israel

Stephen Atkinson

Stephen Atkinson reports continued encouragements from his many travels. Month of May will find him in Texas, Kentucky, and Florida (yes, driving to Miami.) In addition to preaching, he will be visiting Dr. Mohler of Southern Baptist Seminary, and being the proud dad at his son Jonny's M. Div. graduation ceremony at the seminary. The visit to Florida will include time with new colleague Michael Saunders and speaking in the new church family of Michael and Patty, St. Andrews PCA, Hollywood, FL.

Esther also graduates High School the same day as Jonny (16th May), and the Atkinson parents will split, with Mom, and Esther's big sis from Texas supporting her at Rogers High School Graduation. The graduation will be celebrated

with Esther and Wendy accompanying Dad on the Florida trip and enjoying some family time out at Universal Studios.



## Financial Report

Dennis Smith

January - April

Accounts	Income	Expenses	Over/Under
Tithes & Offerings (Operations)	\$ 78,572	\$ 85,252	(\$ 6,680)
Missions (Faith Promise)	\$ 30,418	\$ 24,092	\$ 6,326
Totals	\$ 108,990	\$ 109,344	(\$ 354)

# Music Ministry News

Lee Mekkes

The Worship Committee has recognized how the choirs during the Mission Conference and Easter Sunday have enhanced our worship services, and has a vision for this type of musical ministry at future worship services at various times throughout the year.

Periodically assembled choirs also provide an ideal opportunity for singers to use their gifts in musical ministry without having to commit to a regular weekly rehearsal.

In an effort to attract others to join in the choirs assembled at various times throughout the year, we have identified some of the favorite octavos of choirs from around the country. We would like to incorporate some of these CHOIR CLASSICS into our worship services in the future. They require a larger group than the Mission Conference and Easter choirs. A list has been generated that identifies over 40 known singers in the church who could be part of this music ministry. There are probably more.

There is one choir number that we would like to do with an orchestra--yes, an orchestra and choir at Covenant Church. A larger, sectionally

balanced choir is needed to balance an orchestra.

This project will be coordinated by Pete Golden and Lee Mekkes. In the next few weeks, the 40+ singers on the "list" will receive a letter describing more details of the choir ministry vision, with a response card to indicate their participation. People that are not on that "list" may also participate. Extra copies of the letter and response card will be available for **anyone** who wishes to participate. People with questions should contact Pete Golden or Lee Mekkes.



## Announcements

**Attention Parents:** The children will be singing this Sunday, May 11, at the 11am worship service.

**Camera Club:** The Camera Club will meet Saturday, May 17, at 10am at the church.

**Officer Nominations:** Nominations are now open for the offices of Deacon and Elder. Forms are available at the back of the sanctuary.

**Baby Bottle Campaign:** It's time for our Annual Baby Bottle Campaign. Pick up a baby bottle in the hall and fill it with change (or check) and return it by Father's Day. All funds collected will go to Loving Choices Pregnancy Center, a non-profit, faith-based ministry serving women in Washington and Benton counties.

**Prairie Grove Battlefield Park Picnic & Hike:**

**When:** Immediately following the 2nd worship service on **June 1**.

**Who:** Pre-K through 6th grade and Catechism Class students and their families.

**Where:** Prairie Grove, Arkansas

**What:** Picnic & hiking a navigation-friendly trail

**How:** BYO picnic lunch and proceed from Covenant Church to the park and look for the Peterson's Avalanche parked by the playground & picnic tables.

**Why:** Fun and Fellowship in the Great Outdoors!

**Questions:** Call or e-mail Chuck & Gail Peterson at 918-778-3378/cgpete@windstream.net

## Session and Deacon Reports

Dr. Paul Sagan and Tanner Blair

On April 15, the Session had an hour of prayer for members of Covenant Church.

The Session is seeking a person to coordinate the various social media opportunities of Covenant Church. Interested persons should contact Ruling Elder (RE) Redwine or Teaching Elder Sagan.

The Session noted that Faith Promise giving has shown an approximate ten percent decrease from 2013. The mission committee will recommend a reallocation of Faith Promise accordingly.

The Session elected RE Lee House to represent Covenant at the next stated meeting in Oxford, Mississippi.

The following are the significant actions of the Deacons meeting from May 4<sup>th</sup>, 2014

The Deacons discussed ways they could assist widows.

The Deacons will advertise the 3rd Day Benefit concert for the New Beginnings Children's Home on June 13<sup>th</sup> at Horton Farms in Gravette, Arkansas on the bulletin board.

The Deacons discussed using a tar machine to fill in cracks in parking lot.

Mike Golden has contacted several people to take over janitorial duties. The Deacons will most likely not be hiring a janitorial service.

### CONTACTS

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