

Diaconal Report 5/24/2015

Financial Summary	April	Jan-Apr
Income	\$43,671	\$199,928
Expected income	48,833	195,333
Expenses	50,931	185,522
Budgeted expenses	47,724	191,106

God is amazing. He has continued to bless this congregation with ample resources to advance the cause of Christ. We have our full reserves for emergencies now, and we are even carrying some excess funds into the summer months when giving is sometimes down. Praise God for His generosity and for His gift of hearts that want to tithe and give beyond the tithe.

Diaconal gifts	\$1,221	\$6,810
Diaconal disbursements	1,450	5,379

Your gifts to the mercy fund allow us to support Choices of the Heart (pregnancy resource center), International Seaman's House, Christian Social Ministries (food bank), Open Hearts Community Mission (homeless shelter to be constructed), and our usual monthly support plus a special gift to Covenant Care (adoption services).

Building Fund balance \$157,390

The final report for the sanctuary renovation and gym classroom additions is a good one. Akins Co. is to be commended for working with us to hold down costs and finish only a month later than originally planned despite our breaking up the project into 2 phases. While we had a few unanticipated expenses, only one was significant (folding chairs for Covenant Hall classrooms) thus far.

Financially, we are in excellent shape. Pledges and gifts continue to come in. We have \$50,000 in the building emergency fund and a one month reserve for the general budget. We took out the loan approved by the congregation last fall for construction. We have about \$63,000 available for resolution of a few remaining issues in the sanctuary and for Covenant Hall repairs and renovations. Additional gifts are welcome.

God has been good to us, and He provided everything we needed from finances to a quality builder to protection of workers and school children during construction. I am thankful for the many hours the building committee poured into these projects over the last year.

Do you often think about the blessing of abundant food in your home? Many in our community do not know where their next meals may come from. Would you make it a habit to pick up an extra item or two of non-perishable food when you buy your groceries? Say a prayer of thanks to God as you do this. We do not have a receptacle in the foyer yet for your donations, but if you give it to a deacon or Teena Gilbreth, we will get your gift to a needy family.

The ushers need your help. It may seem like the sanctuary is full, but the numbers indicate that over 100 seats are available. You can help by doing the following:

Please be on time; you will have time to spot the number of seats your family needs.

Please sit to the middle of a row. This will make it easier for the next family to find a place.

Please sit close to the front to allow those who are unavoidably late to slip in quietly.

Please sit close to your brothers & sisters in Christ so as to avoid lots of empty single seats.

Also, please greet and welcome everyone around you. If they are visitors, try to get and record their names plus contact info. There are visitor's cards in the foyer, but the back of your bulletin will do. Please give this data to one of the officers.

As far as the room temperature goes, we ask you to be patient with the deacons and understanding of each other's needs and desires. The thermostats are set at 72 and we are working to have the air moving appropriately. As with any large room, there are hot spots and cold spots in the sanctuary. Some of you are hot natured; others are cold if it gets below 78. We ask that you dress in layers and that you try different areas that may be more to your liking.

Please mark your calendars: we will have a church work day on 7/25 (with a rain date of 8/1) for general cleaning and maintenance. Some projects (like painting or carpet cleaning) are best done at other times; if you are interested in a task like that, please see John Quattlebaum or a deacon.