
SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH



Rev. James W. Ferrone, Pastor

February 2009

LENT

By Pastor Jim



In Lent, as in Epiphany, we will continue to focus on the words of Jesus, i.e., what He told us to do and what He taught us to understand. To carry it further, we will also focus on what He said about Himself. When you look at all the things He said about Himself, you begin to see that no one else in history said these things or made the claims He made. Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 25th. On that night, beginning at 6PM, we will have supper together and a service of worship focusing on His words.

Koinonia

It's Greek to me. Perhaps you have heard the word before? *Koinonia* [coin-o-nea] is the Greek word for fellowship, which is used throughout the New Testament. It first occurs in Acts 2:42, "*They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*" Prayers, fellowship, teaching and food all together...we have called this "Family Night," but some have thought it was only for families. We tried to correct this to say "Church Family Night," but it was often shortened and the point was missed, so we are renaming our monthly gathering "Koinonia." There, just try to misunderstand that name!

Koinonia is everyone: young and old, married and single, committed and on the way to commitment to Christ and His church. Our first Koinonia will not be on the third Wednesday of the month, but on Ash Wednesday, the 4th Wednesday of February. An informal communion will be included.



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 1: 1st Sunday in Lent, Holy Communion

March 29: Passion Sunday, Holy Communion

April 5: Palm Sunday, "Pointing to Jesus"

April 9: Maundy Thursday Service @7:30PM, Holy Communion

April 10: Good Friday - Church will be open for prayer 3-6PM. At 6PM, there will be a service on "The Stations of the Cross." This is something new for us and I will need the help of our former Roman Catholic members to build this service. This also reminds us of the multi-denominational nature of our church.

Sunday, April 12: "He Is Risen" Service of the Resurrection



TWO COMMITMENTS

First, invite your friends, family and neighbors to worship and to all of our activities. People aren't likely to wander into SCCC because we are off the beaten path. They will only come if you ask and invite and ask again. The best way to demonstrate that you believe in Christ is to bring others to Him. The best way to show that you care about the present and future lives of others is to bring them to Him.

Second, commitment is tough these days. People feel they are overextended and are afraid to get involved. If you have been worshipping with us, perhaps the day of commitment has come. Please see me about joining

our church and making that commitment to our Lord. - *Yours in Christ, Pastor Jim*

Church Council News



Welcome to 2009! This week we will have our first Council meeting since the Annual Meeting. Although much of what we do is on-going work and will feel much as it did in 2008, we look forward to welcoming two new Council members and the contributions that they will make to the Council and the work of the church: Linda Rodrigue, who has been serving as our Secretary (and will continue to do so), will be joining the Council as Chair of the Missions and Benevolences Committee, and Kelly McQuarrie will be joining as Chair of the Christian Education Committee. Both Linda and Kelly will be ordained later in the month. Many heartfelt thanks to Laura Wade and Eddy Nichols for their service and commitment to the church.

Each member of the Church Council is charged with chairing a committee that focuses on a specific area of our church life. Anyone interested in serving on one or more of these committees should contact the chairperson. The committees are as follows:

Worship.....Ron Maxwell
Missions & Benevolences.....Linda Rodrigue
Christian Education.....Kelly McQuarrie
Building & Grounds.....John Wardwell
Planning & Outreach.....Bernie Welch
Finance.....Carl Schroeder

You are also invited to attend Church Council meetings. All meetings are open, scheduled for the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6:30PM in Memorial Hall. Your input is important and whether you serve on a committee or bring your ideas and concerns to a Council meeting, your participation is encouraged.

2009 is off to a roaring start with the inception of a major project: re-roofing the sanctuary. Damage caused by a November windstorm, coupled with the age of the shingles, left us little choice but to replace all of the shingles on the sanctuary. A professional roofing

contractor has been hired and work has begun. The total cost of the project is \$12,000, with insurance offsetting \$4,700. The balance of the money will be withdrawn from our Memorial Fund account, which exists to meet this type of emergency. Although sufficient funds exist to cover this expense, contributions to minimize the impact on the Memorial Fund account would certainly be welcomed.



We on the Council look forward to the opportunities and challenges that 2009 will undoubtedly present. Please consider the ways in which you can join us in meeting the challenges and making the most of the opportunities. God Bless - *Carl Schroeder, President/Finance Chair*

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Throughout 2008, the Finance Committee was continually interacting via e-mail, telephone and the Church Council. We usually had a meeting in the fall, but due to personal circumstances, I was unable to call the meeting. Our goal and dedication have been to effectively monitor the SCCC finances and to address the responsibility of stewardship for our church and its members.

We were able to secure three new CDs with Key Bank before the interest rates dropped so drastically. Presently, we have four CDs, valued at approximately \$43,000, with staggering maturity dates through 2012. The Business Investment Account with Bank of America is what we commonly refer to as our "Money Market" account. Although the interest rate is not the greatest, it does afford liquidity and consists entirely of Memorial Funds, valued at approximately \$33,888. The Savings Bank of Maine (formerly Gardiner Savings) has \$5,640 of monies to be used as a "cash flow cushion." This account does not contain any memorial funds.

The stewardship pledge appeal was mailed during the second week of November. The response has been gratifying; even though we did not quite reach the 2008 results, it will

afford the Church Council the ability to construct a realistic budget.

The past six years have been a fulfilling experience for me as Chairman of this Committee. I want to thank all those who have helped along the road: Lisa, Joyce, Ron, Jenny, Jayne and Linda. Respectfully submitted - *Laura Wade, Past Chairman, Finance & Stewardship Committee*

Music In Our Church

What is the role of music in our Christian worship service? The answer is neither simple nor one-dimensional. To be appropriate and effective, the music ministry should take on the dimensions and character of the congregation it serves and express their attitudes, feelings and beliefs before God.



In general, the ministry of music has two aspects (as I understand such things): content and form. The content (words, scripture, messages, etc.) is a product of the Worship Committee where Ron Maxwell, as the representative of the laity, and Pastor Jim (professional holy-man?) instruct and guide the effort to create a meaningful service. This service needs to be dogmatically accurate and clarity of purpose evident to be acceptable. The form of the ministry is chiefly my role. The music is the form. It has one purpose: to convey the content.

We know that music as a liturgical form has been with us since St. Ambrose (d. 397 AD). Ambrose wrote several chants himself and his theology is on a level with Augustine. Music and worship had a close relationship during Christianity's formative years. It has always been seen as a vehicle for poetic expression in our Faith. To distill the Love of God into a few words that will promote our spirituality and express our relationship with the Creator is its primary goal.

How well the music ministry expresses the spirit of the congregation is the measure of its success. Our Love of God is not quantified by how ornate or complex the music sounds.

Bach's Mass in B Minor, Mozart's Requiem, Mendelssohn's St Paul Oratorio, Stravinsky's Symphony of Psalms do not express agape with any more power than a hastily notated tune by Franz Gruber called "Silent Night."

Where does our music come from? If nothing else, I believe the music ministry of our church is a faithful representation of who we are as a congregation. Your fears, hopes, joys and beliefs are the source drawn upon to direct what I do.

I feel good about what is being done. There is an ongoing spiritual growth in South China Community Church that should be apparent. It is the function of Pastor Jim and me to nourish that growth. It is your job to do the growing. Together we can perfect our Love of God. - *In Love & Peace, Chris Faris*



Women's Study Groups

The Women's Study Group A meets every second and fourth Thursday of the month at 11:00AM in member homes. Following our study (which is about an hour), we enjoy fellowship and lunch together. We provide our own lunch and the hostess supplies coffee and tea. Presently there are nine women in the group: Linda Rodrigue, Helen Mosher, Dell Jones, Debbie Thompson, Theresa Plaisted, Judy Mahon, Stella Sisson, Delores and me. There is always room for more! We have read *THE PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE* and *THE PURPOSE DRIVEN CHURCH*. We will be starting *HAVING A MARY SPIRIT*, a book about being a Mary in a Martha world. Also, we will be learning about the life and times of the women of the Bible. This has been a very rewarding and enlightening year, discussing many aspects of how the church operates, the good and the not-so-good, what people are searching for in a church, and what really matters. If you are interested in joining our group or just checking us out, contact me at 445-3118. - *Joan Ferrone*



Because of scheduling conflicts, the Women's Study Group B now meets on the 1st and 3rd **Sunday** evenings at 7PM. Our next book will be *Twelve Extraordinary Women: How God Shaped Women of the Bible and What He Wants to do With You* by John MacArthur. I will be getting a copy of it and the workbook, and making copies of the chapter questions for each group member. There is a bit of overlap with women we've already studied, but Mr. MacArthur has a different approach, being a man and all.

The thing is it will be hard to borrow; there's only one copy in Maine that I know of (in Rumford), but I can ask out-of-state. It will just take some time. The alternative would be to purchase; Christianbook.com offers copies at \$9.99. Do let me know as soon as you can whether you want to buy or borrow, and we'll go from there. - *Emily Schroeder*



Tired of Old Man Winter and shoveling snow? Looking forward to spring? Well, we have something for you to think about and we need everyone to pitch in and help.

Marge Kurtzman has offered to chair the Rummage Sale and Cookie Walk this year, with me helping her. The date has been set for Saturday, May 2 from 9AM-2PM, unless otherwise stated. There will be a sign up sheet if you are willing to take on a table and also a cookie sign up sheet to help out with the Cookie Walk. We've had wonderful response the last couple of years and have made a good profit for the church, so please start poking around your closets, attics, and basements to see what you might have to donate. We will provide a list of things we would like to have.

I will be having a get together at my house to cover some coffee cans for the cookies. We need ~65 cans, so please save them (13 oz.) and either give them to me or leave them on the shelf in the church kitchen. This has been such a fun project and with all of us working together, we will make some money too. Start cleaning out your closets and let's have a rummaging good time!! - *Faith Ames*

THE HISTORY OF

VALENTINE'S DAY: Saint Valentine was a Roman priest martyred during the reign of Claudius II. He was arrested and imprisoned upon being caught marrying Christian couples and otherwise aiding Christians who were at the time being persecuted by Claudius in Rome. Helping Christians at this time was considered a crime. Claudius took a liking to this prisoner, until Valentinus tried to convert the Emperor, whereupon this priest was condemned to death. He was beaten with clubs and stoned; when that didn't finish him, he was beheaded outside the Flaminian Gate.



English antiquarians, noting the obscurity of Saint Valentine's identity, suggested that Valentine's Day was created as an attempt to supersede the pagan holiday of Lupercalia. Many of the current legends that characterize Saint Valentine were invented in the 14th century in England, notably by Geoffrey Chaucer and his circle, when the feast day of February 14 first became associated with romantic love.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Saint_Valentine)

An interesting Valentine....

For God so lo**V**ed the world,

That He g**A**ve

His on**L**y

Begott**E**n

So**N**

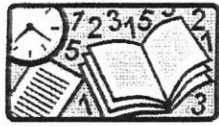
That whosoever

Believeth In Him

Should **N**ot perish,

But have **E**verlasting life.'

- John 3:16

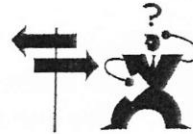


Calendar of Events

- † COMMUNION SERVICES
MARCH 1 – MARCH 29 – APRIL 9 – MAY 3
- † MEN'S BREAKFAST - MEMORIAL HALL, 8AM
2ND SATURDAYS: MARCH 14 – APRIL 11 – MAY 9
- † WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP A – 11AM
2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAYS: FEB 25 – MARCH 11 &
25 – APRIL 8 & 22 – MAY 13 & 27
- WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP B – 7PM
2ND & 4TH SUNDAY EVENINGS: FEB 22 – MARCH
8 & 22 – APRIL 12 & 26 – MAY 10 & 24
- † CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS, 6:30PM
2ND WEDNESDAYS: MARCH 11 – APRIL 8 – MAY
13
- † KOINONIA (FAMILY NIGHT), 6:30PM
3RD WED: FEB 25 (ASH WEDNESDAY) – MARCH
18 – APRIL 15 – MAY 20
- † DAISY GIRL SCOUTS: TBA
- † Deadline for next newsletter: May 10



REMINDER: Daylight Savings
Time begins Sunday, March
8....set your clocks ahead 1hr
Saturday night!



Signs...

In a podiatrist's office: "Time wounds all heels."

On a plumber's truck: "We repair what your husband fixed."

On a church billboard: "Seven days without God makes one weak."

At a towing company: "We don't charge an arm and a leg; we want tows."

On a maternity room door: "Push, push, push."

At an optometrist's office: "If you don't see what you're looking for, you've come to the right place."

On a taxidermist's window: "We really know our stuff."

At a car dealership: "The best way to get back on your feet - miss a car payment."

Outside a muffler shop: "No appointment necessary. We hear you coming."

In a veterinarian's waiting room: "Back in 5mins. Sit. Stay."

At the electric company: "We would be delighted if you send in your payment. However, if you don't, you will be."

In a restaurant window: "Don't stand there and be hungry. Come on in and get fed up."

At a propane filling station: "Thank heaven for little grills."



"I pray that you will understand the words of Jesus: 'Love one another as I have loved you.' Ask yourself, 'How has He loved me? Do I really love others in the same way?'"

- Mother Teresa



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