

# SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH



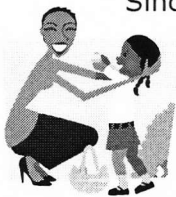
Rev. James W. Ferrone, Pastor

August 2009

## GIFTED & TALENTED

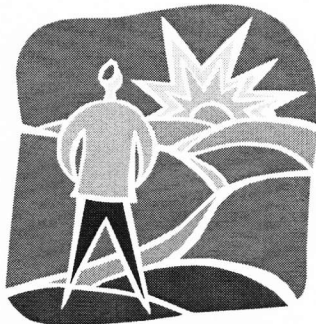
This was the title of the message on Talent Show Sunday and this will be a focus of the Council this fall. Gifts of the Spirit to us all are in Paul's discussion, in both Romans 12 and I Corinthians 12.

We all have gifts and talents [Jesus spoke indirectly of this in Matthew 25:14-30].



Since God has given us these talents and gifts, we are expected to use them for His glory and His purposes. But, what are our gifts and talents and how can we both identify them and use them as they were meant to be used?

This October, the Council and perhaps other members, will hold a retreat to discuss and discover how to best employ the varied gifts that Scripture assures us that the Church has been given. Currently, the Council is working on a journey of discovery of its own gifts and hopefully, this will be an ongoing emphasis throughout the Church. I look forward to this fall season and all that God has set before us.  
- Pastor Jim



## **PROPOSED WORSHIP AND EVENTS** **(Sept2009-Jan2010)**

### SEPTEMBER

Sept 6 - Last 9:30 Summer Service  
Sept 6 - Holy Communion  
Sept 13 - Sunday Worship @10:30AM  
Sept 13 - Sunday School @9:30AM  
Sept 13 - Adult Class @9:15AM  
Sept 16 - Wednesday Koinonia, @6PM

### OCTOBER

Oct 4 - World Wide Communion  
Oct 21- Wednesday Koinonia, @6PM

### NOVEMBER

Nov 1 -Holy Communion  
Nov 22 - Advent Luncheon/Program@12 noon  
Nov 25 - Thanksgiving Eve Service & Koinonia @6PM  
Nov 27 - Hanging the greens @6PM;pizza incl  
Nov 29 -Advent I

### DECEMBER

Dec 6 - Holy Communion, Advent II  
Dec 20 - Church Play/Soup Supper @6PM  
Dec 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service @7PM

### JANUARY 2010

Jan 3 - Holy Communion [Epiphany]  
Jan 10 - "Unhanging of the Greens Luncheon" @12 noon

## **Church Council News**

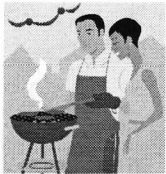
I am sitting on the deck! The sky is blue with fluffy white clouds! There is a light breeze; the sound of distant lawnmowers is mingled with the songs of birds! It's finally June - ah oops - it's August. This year it has seemed that April lasted for four months, there was little sign of May, so it just feels like it should be June. While we suffered and complained through

seemingly endless rainy days, some parts of the country endured unprecedented heat. Couldn't we have traded a bit of our rain for a bit of their sunshine? So what's up with the weather? This isn't the way it's supposed to be! This isn't the way I remember it! This isn't what I planned for!



I'm beginning to believe that the weather may be God's way of not-always-so-gently reminding us that we shouldn't be too certain of what's coming next. More often than not, just when I think I have everything under control, God tosses a new and unexpected challenge my way. Actually, I've come to the point where I begin to get nervous when things seem to be going exceptionally well.

So what does all of this have to do with the Church Council? Well – it seems that things are going exceptionally well! As a matter of fact, things are going so well that the Council voted to not meet in August. All systems are working fine, the grounds are beautiful, the finances are healthy, the congregation seems happy, we spent most of our last Council meeting discussing matters of faith and worship and the pieces have all fallen into place for our next scheduled events! There seems nothing left to do but proclaim a



resounding "Thank you Lord," issue a humble plea for good weather for the BBQ, and offer abundant praise for a merciful and loving God.

- God Bless You All, Carl

Schroeder - President

P.S. ...and please Lord, maybe not too soon or too big with the next challenge.

**PLANNING AND OUTREACH:** *No report at this time*

**FINANCE COMMITTEE:**

This is the first Finance Committee article that I have submitted for the newsletter since becoming chairman and I must admit that I am struggling with how to present the information that I have to share. Considering the state of the economy and the financial condition of many churches, I am in - what would

be deemed by many financial officers - the enviable position of being able to report that South China Community Church is financially quite healthy.

At this point in the year, most all budget categories are on target. Very few expense items have exceeded their 7/12<sup>th</sup> projections for the end of July and fortunately, enough income items have exceeded their projections to more than offset the expenses. For the first seven months of the year our expenses have exceeded income by less than \$200. When you take into account that for the first four months of the year we were still paying off the very costly fuel contract from last year, coupled with the fact that we have already prepaid for enough fuel to take us into spring (no monthly fuel bills for the rest of this year – plus), we are doing quite well.



Our investments are all in safe instruments (CDs and a money market account), which are currently paying higher rates than are being offered in the present market. Rollovers are staggered over the next three years; between the checking account balance and some emergency funds in a savings account, we have a comfortable cushion against the unforeseen. Although I know better than to try to predict the future, if we stay on course for the remaining five months of the year, we will end the year in sound financial condition.

So, considering all this good news, why am I struggling? The thought has crossed my mind that if the church is doing so well, maybe I can back off a little on my support and it won't hurt anything. And why bother with fundraisers? I'm afraid that that thought might occur to many. Here are the reasons why I let that thought pass right on through without any impact on my support:

First, I have made a pledge and I intend to keep it as I know that you will too. Second, and of equal or greater importance, is that the church has been blessed – I believe because of our willingness to share with those in need – and with that blessing comes the added responsibility of seeking out even more ways

by which to share our blessings. It seems clear that since so much of scripture is devoted to sharing what we've been given, caring for those in need and loving our neighbors, that it's as much a mandate for the church as spreading the Gospel. I know there are some in the congregation who feel that we already give enough – maybe too much. But I can't escape the thought that if we are committed to being the body of Christ, we must be committed to giving our all just as He did for us. - *May God Bless You All, Carl Schroeder – Chair*

**BENEVOLENCE & MISSION COMMITTEE:**



Happy August!!! Where has the summer gone?? It will not be long before school starts, August 26<sup>th</sup> to be exact!!

Currently, we have two families that we are helping out. Both of these families have school age children (one in each family). One child is in the elementary school, one in high school. It is difficult to pick out clothes for kids these days, but a gift certificate in any amount would be a tremendous help. I would suggest Wal Mart, Target, K Mart, Kohl's, etc. If any one is so inclined to help out in this way, please see me or Rosie and we will make sure that the certificates get to the families in a timely manner.

Food donations have been scarce this summer. We pray that donations will pick up again soon. A little bit of help goes a long way! Thank you to all who donate on a continuous basis!



We have been given a wonderful opportunity to do mission work locally and abroad, using the proceeds from the July TPS. Half of the proceeds stay local to help some of our church families who are in need and the other half goes to The Voice of the Martyrs, a mission that supports the persecuted church around the world. Thank you so much for supporting the TPS so we are able to help out these very worthy causes.

**Our Mission Statement, est. July 13, 2002:**

"Mission – We can and should demonstrate our love for our neighbors, whether next-door or around the globe, by doing what we are able to help those who are in need and who are unable to help themselves. We can, and should, demonstrate our love by helping to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

I want to thank all the members of the M&B Committee for their input in deciding what missions to support. Your thoughts and comments were very insightful and helpful. Thank you so much! - *May God bless you all! Linda Rodrigue, Chairperson*

**BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE: No report at this time**

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS:**

Hello students and parents! I hope you are all having a fantastic summer, despite the rainy weather we have had. I am looking forward to another great year of Sunday school with all of you. We have some changes this year. Sally Hayden will be helping out this year for craft time with one class, and Richard and Gillian will team up to help with the other. Any one else interested is welcome to join us! The first day of Sunday school is September 13 at 9:30. See you then! Let's shoot for a camp-out on the 4th, shall we? *Sunday school "Super" Janet*

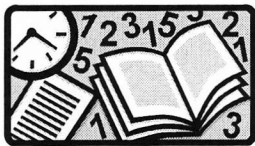
**"Time for Service"**



As I was hurrying to church last week, I started my car and it immediately produced a message, "time for service". How ironic, I thought: here I am late for church; and even the car knows! God works in our lives in many ways and this provided a great reminder: it's never too soon for a spiritual tune-up! – *Emily*

## Women's Group B

The ladies of Group B have enjoyed some really good discussions with our study of Bad Girls of the Bible by Liz Curtis Higgs and Twelve Extra-Ordinary Women by John MacArthur. We are taking a brief break until after Labor Day when we'll begin again, every other Sunday night at 6PM, at the Schroeder's. We hope more of you will consider joining us! We'll decide on our next title in September. Any suggestions will be gratefully received! For more information, please see Emily, call 445-3571 or e-mail: [buffywg@yahoo.com](mailto:buffywg@yahoo.com)  
Thanks so much!



## Calendar of Events

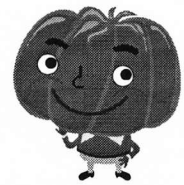
- † COMMUNION SERVICES  
SEPT 6 – OCT 4 – NOV 1
  
- † MEN'S BREAKFAST - MEMORIAL HALL, 8AM  
2<sup>ND</sup> SATURDAYS: SEPT 12 – OCT 10 – NOV 14
  
- † WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP A – 11AM  
2<sup>ND</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> WEDNESDAYS: SEPT 9 & 23 – OCT 14  
& 28 – NOV 11 & 25
  
- WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP B – 6PM AT  
SCHROEDER HOMESTEAD  
EVERY OTHER SUNDAY (SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
WITH HOLIDAYS/CHURCH EVENTS): SEPT 13 &  
27 – OCT 11 & 25 – NOV 8 & 22
  
- † CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS, 6:30PM  
2<sup>ND</sup> WEDNESDAYS: SEPT 9 – OCT 14 – NOV 11
  
- † KOINONIA (FAMILY NIGHT), 6:30PM  
3<sup>RD</sup> WED: SEPT 16 – OCT 21 – NOV 25\*  
\*WITH THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE
  
- † TURKEY PIE SUPPER – TBA
  
- † DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER: NOV 15

**REMINDER:** Please remember to use the small white plates for our Sunday Fellowship snacks [see the note posted in the kitchen as a reminder]. The food donations for weekly after-service Fellowship are not meant to be Sunday lunch, but it seems many (esp children) are loading up large plates to the brim, leaving very little for folks who have been waiting at the end of the line for refreshments. The large plates should only be used for special dinner events, for larger crowds. Thank you for your consideration.



## **Let Us Give Thanks**

*By Max Coots*



Let us give thanks:

For generous friends, with hearts as big as hubbards  
And smiles as bright as their blossoms.  
For feisty friends as tart as apples,  
For continuous friends, who like scallions and cucumbers,  
keep reminding us that we've had them.  
For crotchety friends, as sour as rhubarb and as indestructible.  
For handsome friends, who are as gorgeous as eggplants  
and as elegant as a row of corn.  
And others, as plain as potatoes & so good for you.  
For funny friends who are as silly as brussel sprouts  
and as amusing as Jerusalem artichokes.  
And serious friends as complex as cauliflowers  
And as intricate as onions.  
For friends as unpretentious as cabbages,  
As subtle as summer squash, as persistent as parsley,  
as delightful as dill, as endless as zucchini,  
and who, like parsnips, can be counted on to see you  
through the winter.  
For old friends, nodding like sunflowers in the evening time.  
And young friends coming on as fast as radishes.  
For loving friends who wind around us like tendrils  
and hold us, despite our flights, wilts, and witherings.  
And finally, for those friends now gone, like gardens  
past that have been harvested  
But who fed us in their times that we might have life  
thereafter.  
For all these we give thanks. Amen



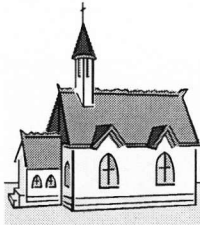


One Sunday morning, the pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names and small American flags mounted on either side of it. The six-year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so the pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, 'Good morning Alex.'

'Good morning Pastor,' he replied, still focused on the plaque. 'Pastor, what is this?'

The pastor said, 'Well son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service.'

Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque. Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear asked, "Which service...the 8:30 or the 10:30?"



### **Church Signs in the United Kingdom:**

Adam blamed Eve. Eve blamed the snake. And the snake didn't have a leg to stand on.

Down in the mouth?  
Come in for a faith lift.

As you pass this little church,  
Be sure to plan a visit  
So when at last you're carried in,  
God won't ask, 'Who is it?'

Can't sleep?  
Don't count sheep.  
Talk to the Shepherd.

Speak well of your enemies.  
After all, you made them.

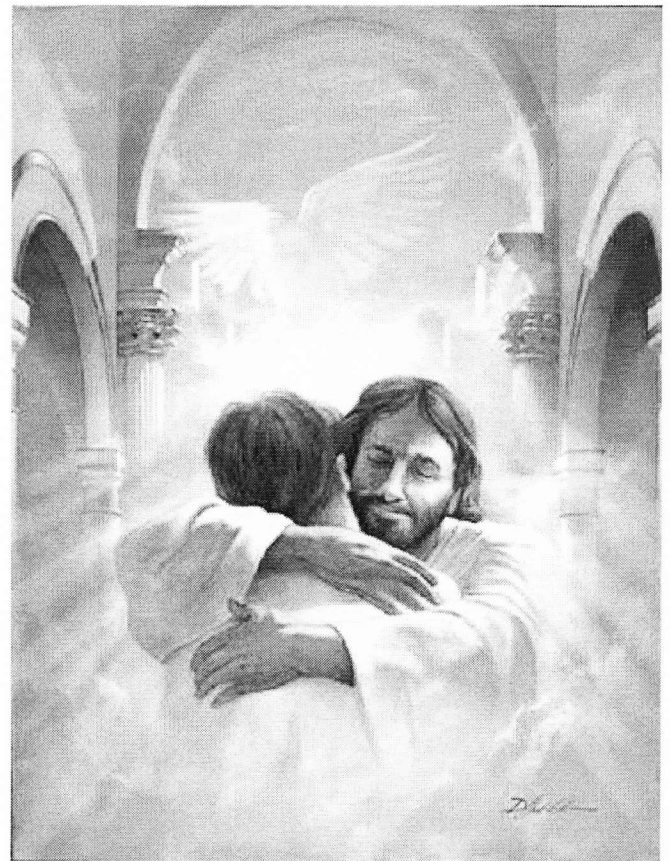
Over 2000 years old and  
Still under the Maker's guarantee!

A sick man turned to his doctor as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, 'Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side.'

Very quietly, the doctor said, 'I don't know.'

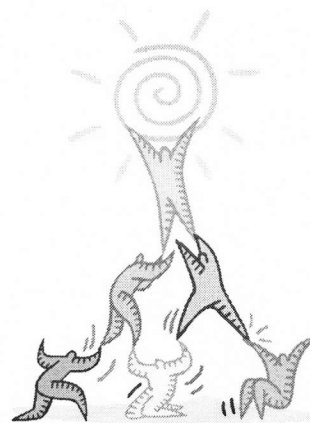
'You don't know? You're a Christian man, and don't know what's on the other side?'

The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness. Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing... I know my Master is there and that is enough."



*“We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.”*

- Romans 12: 6-8  
(New International Version:



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