
SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH



Rev. James W. Ferrone, Pastor

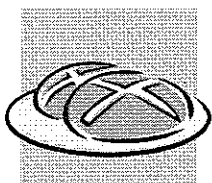
February 2010

TO EVERYTHING A SEASON

Here I am with my tree still decorated and our recent Epiphany Party in my head and I must look forward to another season. As the song goes, "Turn, Turn, Turn." Epiphany, the season where we celebrate God's love for the world, will soon turn to Lent, the season where He demonstrates that love through the passion and sacrifice of our Lord, Jesus Christ.

The seasons give us the change that human beings seem to crave, but they also give us the stability that we need in a rapidly changing world, through their annual repetition. Change and sameness, we need them both. We have Truth, which remains eternal, and yet we are always finding new ways to convey that Truth and to celebrate its meaning in our lives. We're like passengers on a crowded subway: we hold on to the overhead strap which keeps us safe through Life's turns and at the same time we look forward to reaching our destination.

May our Life in Christ keep us safe in His arms and may His spirit continually guide us to our final destination in Him. May God continue to bless us in this, and every, season. - *In Christ's service, Pastor Jim*



Ash Wednesday, we ended our Koinonia (fellowship) with a Passover Seder. We sampled some of the foods eaten on the First Passover, used the words that were

said, and ended with Holy Communion.

This was something for the whole family, but the meal that we ate at 6PM was very non-traditional. Our former President, Jack Kurtzman, had suggested that we have a soup, stew, and chili cook-off. Fourteen

people attended & the dinner of chili/soup was provided by various gourmet cooks. Elijah's seat was saved, but he did not appear. The first meal was tasty, the second was more educational. It was a night of great fun, great food, and great learning!

HOLY WEEK:

*Sunday, March 28: Palm Sunday

*Thurs, April 1: Maundy Thursday

*Friday, April 2: Stations of the Cross 6PM

*Sunday, April 4: Celebrate the Resurrection



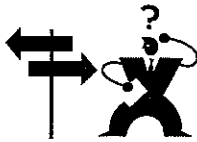
Church Council News

As we embark on a new year, it is clear that there will be much work to do. Pastor Jim has announced his intention to retire one year from this coming June. We greatly appreciate the advance notice that he has given us. It is now incumbent upon the Council to begin the process of a Pastoral search.

Choosing and hiring a new pastor is undoubtedly one of, if not the, most important events in the life of a church. The process can be complicated, lengthy and sometimes contentious. The congregation needs to reach some consensus concerning its view of who the new pastor should be in terms of attributes, faith, style, responsibilities, age, full-time, part-time. The congregation also has to decide what it's prepared to offer in a compensation package. Reaching such a consensus can, in itself, be a very difficult process.

As we will be asking for a lot of information from prospective candidates, they have a right to expect detailed information about the congregation and the community. Therefore, we

must be prepared to offer a reasonably accurate description of ourselves, including demographic information about age, income, family status, and willingness to be involved, as well as information concerning spiritual backgrounds and beliefs.



We need to look at the history of the church considering our beginnings, the growth and progress accomplished, and identify our goals for the future. Only by being clear about where we want to go can we determine the pastoral characteristics that will get us there.

I was recently counseled by one whose opinion I greatly respect: that God already knows who He wants to lead our flock and our job is merely to find that person.

This process will involve a lot of work on the part of the Council and the Search Committee, but will also require the help and cooperation of the entire congregation.

The Search Committee is yet to be formed. Ideally it will be composed of a representative cross-section of the congregation. If you are interested in serving on the Committee, please contact a member of the Church Council.

The need for your prayers is most significant. We all need to seek God's will and guidance through every step of this process.

In other news, I'd like to welcome two "new" members to the Council: **Diane Rawson**, who will be assuming the position of Planning and Outreach Chairperson, and **Sheldon Goodine**, who will once again be assuming the position of Building & Grounds Chairperson. I want to thank Bernie Welch and John Wardwell for their service over the past terms. Bernie will continue to serve on the Planning & Outreach Committee, assisting Diane and filling in for her when she is away.

We still have an impending vacancy for Christian Education Chairperson. Kelly McQuarrie, who is the current Chair, is involved in so many activities that she feels it has been difficult for her to serve effectively.

She has agreed to stay on until a new person can be found, but does wish to end her term in May. If anyone feels called to serve in this capacity, please contact a member of the Council. – *May God Bless You All, Carl Schroeder, President*

COMMUNICATIONS AND OUTREACH:

The newly named "Communications and Outreach Committee" will be the voice and link to communications at the SCCC. Diane Rawson (Webber) has graciously accepted the title of Communications and Outreach Chair here at our church. Since Diane is in Florida and I love hearing Carl's stories, I will continue to be part of this Committee. Our focus will be on keeping our church web site updated, arranging advertising for upcoming events, and identifying talents in each of our church members that they might consider using in service to our Lord and our church.

Music has been, and will continue to be, a great part of our church ministry. Hopefully, we will be able to get three music groups to come and minister to us. Do not hesitate to suggest music, ways to identify and welcome new church members, and any place you feel our church should have a presence (especially in your heart!). It is an honor to be part of our church family. - *Bernie Welch, Chair*

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Thanks to the on-going commitment and generosity of our congregation, we remain in good health financially.



The final budget for 2010 was approved February 21; the delay in its passing lies squarely with "yours truly."

The format that I used to present the budget at the January annual meeting did not take into account the income and expenditures for non-budget items; hence, the budget and the treasurer's report could not be reconciled with each other. It was clear at the meeting that this was not an acceptable discrepancy and the budget needed to be reformatted. I apologize to all for the confusion and delay that this caused; a reformatted budget that reconciles

with the Treasurer's Report was prepared and made available to the congregation on 2/7 for review.

Joyce Goodine (our Treasurer) and I are working to redefine the categories used in her accounting software and those included in the budget, so that they are identical. This should prevent a similar occurrence in the future.

I have decided not to report specific figures in the newsletter since they are constantly changing. Anyone who wishes specific information can have access to the Treasurer's monthly reports to the Church Council, or can contact either me or Joyce. The books are always open.

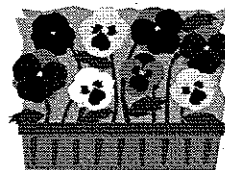
As always, I thank Joyce Goodine and Ron Emery for their dedication and hard work. I also thank all of you for your patience, understanding and prayers as I continue to learn this job. *God Bless, Carl Schroeder - Chair*

BENEVOLENCE & MISSION COMMITTEE:

I walked this morning for the first time in months. It felt good to get outside and get some fresh air in my lungs. So many of us stay cooped up all winter just waiting for Spring to arrive. Perhaps that is why we are so grateful when it does. I crave the sunshine, the blue skies, the warmth, and the smell of the earth. Now that the days are longer and the sun is brighter, my thoughts turn to seeds and Promix. I'm anxious to get my little 6x6 pop-up greenhouse out and start playing in the dirt. I can grow enough in that tiny greenhouse to supply our family garden with plenty of vegetable seedlings along with some to give away and, last year, I had enough flower seedlings to color not only my flower gardens, but many of my family members' and friends' as well. It's a small operation, but the effects are far reaching.

It's kinda like that at SCCC as well. We are a small operation, but we sow the seeds of God's love as much as we can. Whether it is our local missions or our international efforts, we pray that the seeds that are planted will all lead to God! Wouldn't the world be a more beautiful place if everyone did a little for those in need! I encourage everyone who reads this

newsletter to '**plant a seed**' today! May God bless each and every one of you! **HAPPY EASTER!** - *In grateful service, Linda Rodrigue, Missions and Benevolence Chairperson*



Deepest sympathy and condolences to the following:

Family/Friends of **Grace Griggs**

*Spring services to be announced

Family/Friends of **Calvin Wade**

*Services to be held at SCCC, 2/28 @2PM

Love Lives On (Amanda Bradley)

Those we love
are never really lost to us -
we feel them
in so many special ways -
through friends
they always cared about
and dreams they left behind,
in beauty that they added to our days...
in words of wisdom we still carry with us
and memories that never will be gone...
Those we love are never really lost to us -
For everywhere their special love lives on.

In memory of Judy Mahon:

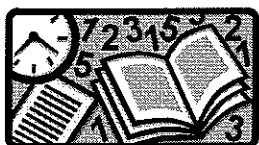
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WOMENS STUDY GROUP "A"



This past year we read, actually we are still reading, "Having A Mary Spirit." We are trying to learn how to be more like a Mary and less like a Martha. It has been very informative, funny and moving. We identify with many of the situations and have long discussions on how we can improve our lives to be what God

expects of us. Often we laugh hysterically or have tears in our eyes. You can say we are passionate about our studies. We meet the second and fourth Thursdays of the month in each others' home on a rotating basis at 11AM. If you feel this might be something you'd enjoy, join us. Try it, you'll like it!! Call me @ 445-3118. - *God Bless, Joan*



Calendar of Events

- ✠ COMMUNION SERVICES
MARCH 7 – APRIL 1 – MAY 2
- ✠ MEN'S BREAKFAST - MEMORIAL HALL, 8AM
2ND SATURDAYS: MARCH 13 – APRIL 10 – MAY 8
- ✠ WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP A – 11AM
2ND & 4TH THURSDAYS: FEB 25 – MARCH 11 & 25
– APRIL 18 & 22 – MAY 13 & 27
- WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP B – 6PM @ EMILY'S
EVERY OTHER SUNDAY: FEB 28 – MARCH 14 & 28 – APRIL 11 & 25 – MAY 9 & 23
- ✠ CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS, 6:30PM
2ND WEDNESDAYS: MARCH 10 – APRIL 14 – MAY 12
- ✠ KOINONIA (FAMILY NIGHT), 6:30PM
3RD WED: MARCH 17 – APRIL 21 – MAY 19
- ✠ APRIL 20: MAINE GLADIOLUS SOCIETY AUCTION (SEE BELOW FOR DETAILS)
- ✠ **DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER: MAY 9**



The **Maine Gladiolus Society** will be celebrating 70 years with its bulb auction being held at the South China Community Church on Saturday, April 20, 2010. The time of the auction is

10AM to ~3PM; everyone is welcome. There will be a free lasagna luncheon at noon, but donations will gladly be accepted.

Bulbs from Europe will once again be auctioned, along with many from the gardens of Paul Cates of Vassalboro, Robert Martin of Belgrade, and other major suppliers. A miniature glad (Julia) from Paul Cates' gardens was listed as one of the ten best miniatures last year.

Madeline Walenta (deceased) from South China founded the Maine Gladiolus Society some 70 years ago and was very instrumental in Maine to have an active society these many years. The society thanks so many of you folks from our church, and also this church, for supporting the bulb auction last year and we look forward to seeing you again on April 10, whether you plant bulbs or just enjoy the pictures and lunch. - *Faith Ames*



God is sitting in Heaven when a scientist says to Him, 'Lord, we don't need you anymore. Science has finally figured out a way to create life out of nothing. In other words, we can now do what you did in the beginning.'

'Oh, is that so? Tell me....' replies God.

'Well', says the scientist, 'we can take dirt and form it into the likeness of you and breathe life into it, thus creating man.'

'Well, that's interesting. Show Me.'

So the scientist bends down to the earth and starts to mold the soil.

'Oh no, no, no...' interrupts God, "Get your own dirt."



FORREST GUMP GOES TO HEAVEN

The day finally arrived. Forrest Gump dies and goes to Heaven. He is at the Pearly Gates, met by St. Peter himself. However, the gates are closed and Forrest approaches the gatekeeper.

St. Peter said, 'Well, Forrest, it is certainly good to see you. We have heard a lot about you. I must tell you, though, that the place is filling up fast, and we have been administering an entrance examination for everyone. The test is short, but you have to pass it before you can get into Heaven.'

Forrest responds, 'It sure is good to be here, St. Peter, sir. But nobody ever told me about any entrance exam. I sure hope that the test ain't too hard. Life was a big enough test as it was.'

St. Peter continued, 'Yes, I know, Forrest, but the test is only three questions. First: What two days of the week begin with the letter T? Second: How many seconds are there in a year? Third: What is God's first name?'

Forrest leaves to think the questions over. He returns the next day and sees St. Peter, who waves him up, and says, 'Now that you have had a chance to think the questions over, tell me your answers.'

Forrest replied, 'Well, the first one -- which two days in the week begins with the letter 'T'? Shucks, that one is easy. That would be Today and Tomorrow.'

The Saint's eyes opened wide and he exclaimed, 'Forrest, that is not what I was thinking, but you do have a point, and I guess I did not specify, so I will give you credit for that answer. How about the next one?' asked St. Peter.

'How many seconds in a year? Now that one is harder,' replied Forrest, 'but I think and think about that, and I guess the only answer can be twelve.'

Astounded, St. Peter said, 'Twelve? Twelve? Forrest, how in Heaven's name could you come up with twelve seconds in a year?'

Forrest replied, 'Shucks, there's got to be twelve: January 2nd, February 2nd, March 2nd....'

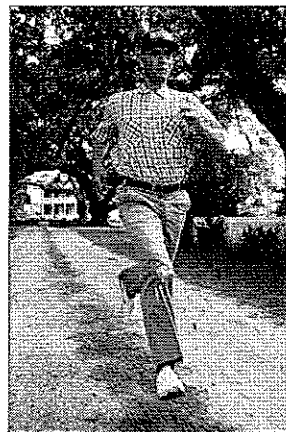
'Hold it,' interrupts St. Peter. 'I see where you are going with this, and I see your point, though that was not quite what I had in mind....but I will have to give you credit for that one, too. Let us go on with the third and final question. Can you tell me God's first name?'

'Sure,' Forrest replied, 'it's Andy.'

'Andy?' exclaimed an exasperated and frustrated St. Peter. 'Ok, I can understand how you came up with your answers to my first two questions, but just how in the world did you come up with the name Andy as the first name of God?'

'Shucks, that was the easiest one of all,' Forrest replied. 'I learnt it from the song, ANDY WALKS WITH ME, ANDY TALKS WITH ME, ANDY TELLS ME I AM HIS OWN.'

St. Peter opened the Pearly Gates, and said: 'Run, Forrest, run!'



"To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under the sun. A time to be born and a time to die...a time to weep and a time to laugh... a time to mourn and a time to dance... a time to lose and a time to seek..."

- Ecclesiastes 3:1-8



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