

SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH



Rev. James W. Ferrone, Pastor

November 2010

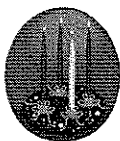
THANKSGIVING

We have two Thanksgiving services every year. Thanksgiving Sunday is November 21; it's the last Sunday of the Season of Pentecost or Trinity. Thanksgiving is not part of the church year, but we celebrate it as a Christian and national holiday. Thanksgiving Eve is Wednesday, November 24. Our service is at 7PM and will include Holy Communion. Both of these services help us focus on how much God has blessed us and how fortunate we are to enjoy the freedoms and all the blessings we have.



PREPARATION. In preparation for Advent and Christmas, we will hold our annual "Hanging of the Greens" on Friday, November 26 at 6PM. There are lots for every one of all ages to do; we hope for a large turnout. Pizza will be served and you are invited to bring a dessert to share.

ADVENT. Advent is the beginning of the Church Year; it begins four Sundays before December 25. This year, the first Sunday in Advent is November 28. Each Sunday we light an Advent Candle until all four are lighted the Sunday before Christmas. These candles all have special meanings; a pamphlet will be available on Thanksgiving so that you can make your own Advent Wreath and know the names of the candles and the scripture that goes with them. If you want to get started now, you will need four purple and one white candle(s) for the center of the wreath.



THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PLAY/SOUP SUPPER. This will be held on Sunday, December 19 at 6PM. Carl has written a new play; Chris will be making soup and also pre-selling based on your orders. Soup sales help pay for our Koinonia programs.

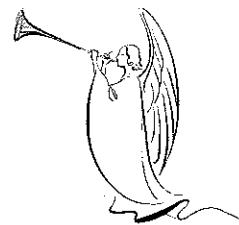


CHRISTMAS. Christmas Eve Service is always a focal point of the church. Carols and candlelight make a wonderful atmosphere to remember the Birth of our Lord on December 24 at 7PM. Christmas isn't over on the 25th of December; remember the 12 days?

EPIPHANY. Epiphany, also called the Festival of the Three Kings or Little Christmas, occurs on January 6 every year. It is actually an older holiday than Christmas itself and reminds us that Jesus didn't only come to save the Jews, but He came to show that "God so loved the world" i.e., you and me, too.

We will celebrate Epiphany on January 9. After church, we will have a luncheon to undecorate the church. Again, lots of help is needed.

Epiphany lasts until Ash Wednesday. Thus, the first three seasons of the church year are Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany. Remember: a season lasts longer than a day, so please don't rush them beginning or ending early. These seasons aren't about gifts and parties. They are about our Lord and our Faith in Him. – *In Christ, Pastor Jim*



Music for the Christmas play consists of five VERY familiar hymns (just the first verses), which will be sung as a medley before the play begins. That will give everyone a chance to sit in the congregation and enjoy the play. Anyone who would like to sing is most welcome. Rehearsal date and time will be announced at a later date. Please plan to sing with us! - Faith Ames

Church Council News

The end of the year is approaching rapidly and the Church Council will be focusing on wrapping things up for 2010. The Council will be working with the Finance Committee to prepare next year's budget. As always, we'll do all we can to hold the line, while still moving our church forward in its service to God.



We've had our last Turkey Pie Supper of the year, the profits of which will go towards the Missions & Benevolences Fund. Our next fundraiser will be *Santa's Breakfast* on December 11th. It's been several years since we've had a *Santa's Breakfast* and the Council thought that this would be a good time to revive the old tradition. I'm sure that it will be great fun!

Since this is the last newsletter of 2010, I feel that it's not inappropriate to indulge in some year-end reflection. I feel that 2010 has been a remarkable year in many ways. We have seen major projects accomplished, like the parking lot paving. We have stretched our benevolence budget and seen much donated outside of the budget, helping not only local families, but students in Cameroon. We've expanded our advertising to reach out to the community. Our website has been updated and redesigned, giving us an attractive image to present to the world (Note: Several who have applied for the pastor's position specifically mentioned that the website had helped them decide to apply). We have added some wonderful folks to our congregation and to our membership. I also feel a growing excitement to share God's love. Please keep watch on the church calendar (there's a link on the website), so you don't miss any of the upcoming

holiday events. - *Happy Thanksgiving & Merry Christmas, Carl Schroeder, President*

Pastoral Search Committee

In the three months since the last newsletter, the Search Committee has processed a lot of information. Initial contacts have exceeded 65 inquiries. We have performed initial evaluations for over 20 applicants and are currently moving forward with six. The next steps include sharing more detailed information and responding to questions, then interviews and ultimately the presentation of selected candidates to the congregation.

Although things have considerably slowed down in the number of inquiries and applicants received, we are still getting an occasional e-mail or application and will continue to process and evaluate them all. We have discontinued all paid advertising for the present. There are several free sites, as well as our own website, that will continue to advertise the position. If we are unable to fill the position from the current pool of applicants, we will initiate another round of advertising. Please continue to pray that God will provide the guidance that brings us together with our new pastor. - *God Bless You All, Carl Schroeder, Chair*

Communications & Outreach

This fall has been very busy. Sunday school is in full session and we have a great group of children this year. If you know of others who could join, let me know!

We had a super Halloween party and thank you to all the folks who helped: the Prestons, Emily Schroeder, Rosie, and those who baked goodies for us! The children really had a good time.



Some wonderful ideas have come up during Koinonia, which I'm sure are addressed elsewhere. With ideas like those presented, we can only move upward and onward with God's grace and guidance.

One outreach in December will be the *Santa's Breakfast* on December 11. This will be open to the community and we hope to get many children attending. There will also be a small

craft table and a bake sale table (anyone willing to help, please see me). We will have SSCC brochures to hand out, Santa will be giving out treats, the Dirigo Men's Club will be cooking breakfast, Faith Ames will be playing Christmas carols, and Chris Montagna will take the photos that people can have.

If you haven't checked out the SSCC website, you must do so! It is wonderful- thank you, Lisa! Go to southchinacommunitychurch.org to see what is there. If you DON'T need a printed newsletter and will use the website to read them, please let me know as that would cut down on some printing, mailing costs, etc.



I hope everyone has a blessed and joyous Thanksgiving and Christmas season and focuses on the good things that God provides for us. Sometimes despite the hard economy, illness, broken relationships, and things Life throws our way, I need to realize just how much we DO have and remember to put things in perspective; hope you can do the same. While Steve and I are away for the winter, Bernie Welch will be taking my place and he will do a marvelous job, I am sure! - *In Christ's service, Diane Rawson, Co-Chair*

Mission & Benevolence

In the last newsletter, I mentioned that we should enjoy the warm weather because winter was on its way. Sunday morning (October 31) we looked out the window during Sunday school and saw snow.



In September, we were able to help outfit the children in our four sponsored families with clothing and school supplies. In addition, six ladies from church provided a special gift card for the young lady who was beginning her senior year in high school. This outreach to these families in our community was well received and thank you notes to the congregation were sent by each family. These families and others are given necessary food and household items on a monthly basis. Your support of South China Community Church enables this assistance to take place.

We will be providing six Thanksgiving baskets to families to help them enjoy Thanksgiving Day. The baskets will provide everything needed for a traditional Thanksgiving dinner.

In December, the congregation will ensure that each member of the four families receives several gifts. We have done this for a number of years, and your generosity has been wonderful. Watch for the wish list which will be posted in Memorial Hall the first Sunday of Advent. (Please let a committee member know of others who need help in providing gifts for their children this Christmas. Those needs will be posted on the giving board for those who desire to participate.)



Let me reiterate my thanks for all you do to support our outreach efforts. None of these things would occur without you. "They will know we are Christians by our love."

Happy Thanksgiving and an early Merry Christmas - and to all a good night! - *Jack Kurtzman, Chairman*

Finance

It appears that we will end the year in good financial health. We've been able to maintain a respectable balance in the checking account, which should provide a sufficient "balance forward" to help in the preparation of next year's budget. The paving project has temporarily depleted the balance a bit, but we will be drawing some funds from savings to offset part of the paving expenses, as was originally planned by the Council.

We recently had another CD mature, and as we did last time, have decided not to roll it over, but to cash it out and put the money in savings. If interest rates become more attractive, we can always purchase another CD.

You will soon be receiving your pledge letter, asking you to consider your pledge for next year. By pledging a specific amount, you help us to more accurately forecast income and thus prepare the most realistic budget possible. The 2011 budget will be impacted by the fact that Pastor Jim is planning to retire in June and whatever contract agreements will

be needed in hiring a new pastor are still an unknown. We are offering essentially the same package as Jim's, but negotiations may well require some adjustments. Please prayerfully consider your pledge before responding to the letter.

Your continued generosity and commitment to this church make it possible for us to continue to expand our service to God, who has blessed us so abundantly. - *God Bless, Carl Schroeder, Chair*

Building & Grounds

Final report on the parking lot project:

Cost:

Bard Paving	\$4774.00
Home Depot	718.70
Total Cost	\$5492.70

Revenue to date:

B&G Budget	\$1000.00
Donations	485.00
Total	\$1485.00

Balance: \$4007.70

Thank you to all who lent a helping hand to complete this project. The committee will now get back to planning the work needed to update the inside of the sanctuary. - *Sheldon Goodine, Chairman*

Women's Evening Study Group

The evening group is now reading Elizabeth George's A Woman's High Calling: 10 Essentials for Godly Living; as always, we're having some interesting discussions in our effort to expand our horizons and become all that God intends us to be. We would love to welcome some new ladies to our group! We meet on alternate Sunday evenings at 6PM, at Emily Schroeder's house (about a mile from church: 252 Windsor Rd.) Please call 445-3571, or e-mail buffywg@yahoo.com for more information.



As most of you know, *John Toohey* recently passed away unexpectedly. He was never able to have chemo in that his illness had too many complications. While we've only known John for a short time, we knew him well because he became so active in SCCC. Please keep Sandra and the Toohey family in your prayers.

Best Wishes for a Speedy Recovery...to Charlie Tuttle as he undergoes extensive treatment for cellulitis.



Cell phone vs. Bible

Ever wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone?

What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?

What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?

What if we used it to receive messages from the text?

What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

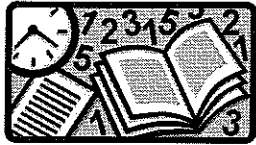
What if we gave it to kids as gifts?

What if we used it when we traveled?

What if we used it in case of emergency?

This is something to make you go hmm... where is my Bible?

Oh, and one more thing: unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill. Makes you stop and think 'where are my priorities? And no dropped calls!



Calendar of Events

- † COMMUNION SERVICES:
NOV 24 - DEC 5 - JAN 2 - FEB 6
- † MEN'S BREAKFAST - MEMORIAL HALL, 8AM
2ND SATURDAYS: DEC 11 - JAN 8 - FEB 12
- † WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP A - 11AM
2ND & 4TH THURSDAYS: DEC 9 & 23 - JAN
13 & 27 - FEB 10 & 24
- † WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP B - 6PM
EVERY OTHER SUNDAY: NOV 21 - DEC 5
& 19 - JAN 2, 16 & 30 - FEB 13 & 27
- † CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS, 6:30PM
2ND WEDS: DEC 8 - JAN 12 - FEB 9
- † KOINONIA (FAMILY NIGHT), 6:30PM
3RD WED: DEC 15 - JAN 19 - FEB 16
- † THANKSGIVING SUNDAY: NOV 21
- † THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE: NOV 24,
7PM
- † HANGING OF THE GREENS: NOV 26, 6PM
- † ADVENT: NOV 28 - DEC 5 - DEC 12 -
DEC 19
- † SANTA'S BREAKFAST: DEC 11
- † PLAY/SOUP SUPPER: DEC 19, 6PM
- † CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE: DEC 24, 7PM
- † EPIPHANY: JAN 9
- † "UNHANGING" OF THE GREENS!: JAN 9
- † DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER: FEB 6

WEB SITES OF INTEREST:

guideposts.org/thanksgivingprayer

thisibelieve.org

HungerFreeFamilies.org

<http://www.theinterviewwithgod.com/popup-frame.html>

ANGELS AND KIDS

I only know the names of two angels, Hark and Harold. (Gregory, age 5)

Everybody's got it all wrong. Angels don't wear halos anymore. I forget why, but scientists are working on it. (Olive, age 9)

Angels work for God and watch over kids when God Has to go do something else. (Mitchell, age 7)

My guardian angel helps me with math, but he's not much good for science. (Henry, age 8)

Angels don't eat, but they drink milk from Holy Cows! (Jack, age 6)

When an angel gets mad, he takes a deep breath and counts to ten. And when he lets out his breath again, somewhere there's a tornado. (Reagan, age 10)

Angels live in cloud houses made by God and his Son, who's a very good Carpenter. (Jared, age 8)

All angels are girls because they gotta wear Dresses and boys didn't go for it. (Antonio, age 9)

Some of the angels are in charge of helping heal sick animals and pets. And if They don't make the animals get better, they help the child get over it. (Vicki, age 8)

What I don't get about angels is why, when someone Is in love, they shoot arrows at them. (Sarah, age 7)



*“Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!
Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into God's
presence with singing! Know that the Lord is God! It
is he that made us, and we are his; we are his people,
and the sheep of his pasture. Enter his gates with
thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks
to him, bless his name! For the Lord is good; his
steadfast love endures for ever, and his faithfulness to
all generations.”*

- Psalm 100



*South China Community Church
246 Village Street, PO Box 335
South China, ME 04358
southchinacommunitychurch.org*