

# SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH



Rev. James W. Ferrone, Pastor

February 2011

## **LENT, EASTER & PENTECOST**

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 9; we will gather at 6PM for an informal Koinonia meal. You are asked to bring any mid-Eastern dishes that you like so that we all might share them and learn a little about them. Desserts would also be welcome, with the Koinonia Fund supplying the rest of the meal. A church service will follow, including Holy Communion.

### **Holy Week**

✠ *Palm Sunday, April 17*

✠ *Maundy Thursday, April 21 @7PM.* These services, while solemn, are most important in understanding the meaning of Easter. There would have been no Resurrection without suffering and crucifixion.

✠ *Good Friday, April 22 - Stations of the Cross @6PM*

### **Celebrate the Resurrection**

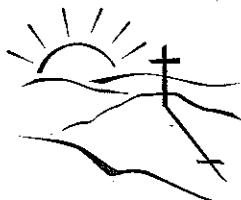
✠ *Sunday, April 24.* This is the central event of the Church Year and of our life itself. It is the reason that we are a church at all. Invite your friends to this joyous "For the Lord is Risen, He is Risen Indeed."

✠ *Ascension Thursday, June 2 and*

✠ *Pentecost, Birthday of the Church, June 12*

✠ *The Season of Pentecost [or Trinity] lasts until Advent, which is November 27, 2011*

As I write this "Spring" newsletter, surrounded by more snow than I could possibly imagine, I am thankful for a late Easter this year. I love a white Christmas but look forward to a green Easter. - *Blessings on you all, Pastor Jim*



## **Church Council News**

Did it snow at your house? It certainly did at mine! As I look out my window, I can see my temporary garage has collapsed on top of what was probably one-too-many cars anyway. Clearing the snow load off that garage was one of many things that I knew I should get to, but had set aside in favor of other priorities. Sometimes our priorities are poorly assigned and sometimes we just can't get to everything. Once in a while, one of those things that we pushed down the priority list jumps into our face and says, "See, I told you I needed your attention!" I'm learning slowly and painfully that I can't do or get to everything. I finally gave in and hired someone to clear the snow off the other garage and part of the house. Although my pride was slightly wounded, I took consolation in the fact that I had, in fact, done something about the problem.



The Church Council also deals with setting priorities and getting things done. Like everyone else, we can't always get to everything and don't always even identify everything that needs to be addressed. It's vitally important that everyone in the congregation participate in the work of the church. Serving on one of the six Council committees, bringing items of concern to the Council, being willing to serve in a leadership position or simply being available to help when needed are all ways to be involved. Help us identify and deal with those things that may have slid down the priority list or may have even fallen off of it completely. Council meetings are always open and you are always welcome.

Thanks to all who participated in the Annual Meeting, to those who serve on the Council, and to all who contribute in so many ways to make SCCC a loving and Spirit-filled fellowship. Let's work together to make 2011

another year of service to our Lord through spiritual growth, mutual love and support and sharing our blessings and the Gospel with the community and the world. - *God Bless You All, Carl Schroeder, President*

### **Pastoral Search Committee**



The Pastoral Search Committee continues to work on your behalf to find the best candidate for our church. We continue to review applications, documents and sermon samples. We have scheduled interviews, but so far, have had no positive results.

Our first interview, a candidate from Indiana, seemed to hold promise, but he ultimately withdrew his name, expressing that he and his wife decided they would prefer to remain closer to their children and other family.

Our second interview, a candidate from Vermont, had to be rescheduled due to his car experiencing a breakdown on his way to last month's interview; we have rescheduled to mid-March.

Our third scheduled interview, a candidate from California, was scheduled for the 26<sup>th</sup> of this month via video conference, but he has just withdrawn his name, responding to a potential call from a California church.

So, as it stands now, we have only one interview pending. We do have one applicant and one candidate with whom we are currently corresponding. Whether either of these will ultimately be considered for interview has yet to be determined.

We have initiated another round of advertising through an internet site that we did not use in the first round of advertising. Hopefully, it will be fruitful.

Although we have had over 75 inquiries, not all who inquire actually apply and not all who apply satisfy the requirements/preferences expressed in the Congregational Survey. Many have also seemed a poor fit based on sermon samples, beliefs or overall impression.

Some concern has been expressed over the Committee's intention to present candidates one-at-a-time. It has been my impression that

the Committee agreed this was the best way to proceed. The Committee will revisit this issue, giving serious consideration to all alternatives. In a practical sense, we may not have more than one candidate to present by June. Pray that we have at least one!

Please continue to pray for the Committee and for those who are being considered that God's will be done. - *Respectfully, Carl Schroeder, Chair*

### **Communications & Outreach**

The big news for our Communication & Outreach Committee is just how much outreaching is being done as a result of Lisa Montagna's efforts on our church web site. Yes, our church "web mistress" (not Spiderman's nemesis!) has made the South China Community Church shine on the web. If you have ideas or suggestions to include on the site, do not hesitate to contact Lisa, Bernie or Diane.



*The Town Line* has begun running advertisements featuring our church and membership. Each advertisement mentions the welcome our church provides and our mission to share the Good News. Diane has established this new way to share and we would like feedback.

Currently, no special music is planned for 2011, but we are always on the look out for musical groups who will share God's Message and get our toes tapping to boot (or is it IN the boot?).

MOST IMPORTANTLY it is an honor to serve you, our church membership. Be sure to welcome anyone new you see in church or fellowship. Remember how nice it is to be welcomed... a smile works wonders. Please continue to pray for ways our church can serve the spiritual needs of our community. *Bless you this Easter Season - Bernie Welch/ Diane Webber Rawson, Co-chairs*

### **Mission & Benevolences**

The congregation at the South China Community Church has a huge collective heart and a true sense of giving. The budget for Missions

and Benevolences is augmented throughout the year as food assistance is provided monthly to four families in our community by the giving of non-perishable food items by the congregation; the budget pays for perishable foods monthly. The budget is further enhanced by birthday gifts for the children of these families, school supplies, and Christmas gifts for all the family members. This community outreach is ably administered by Rosie Feihel and her daughter, Angela, with help from other committee members. The congregation responds to requests for assistance to the mission in Cameroon and recently provided funds to support others in their schooling.

The Missions and Benevolences Committee is currently looking at several new opportunities to serve. We will keep you aware of plans to provide support to those in need in our community, nation, and internationally. Remember those concentric circles. - *Jack Kurtzman, Chairman*

### **Christian Education / Sunday School**

We have been having fun in Sunday school and learning a lot of valuable lessons since Christmas. The studies have concentrated on Jesus' life and his acts of forgiveness and healing. We started with Epiphany and learned about the gifts the wise men brought to Jesus. We made our own "spice" drink and gave it to someone special in our lives. Then we learned of Jesus' baptism and discussed the different ways people are baptized.



We learned two special lessons about how Jesus became an ally to the Samaritan woman at the well, and how he forgave Zacchaeus, the tax collector, whom many disliked. We talked a lot about how we can be allies to those around us - especially our peers who may not have many friends at school or kids who may have a difficult home life.

Lastly, we studied many stories of Jesus healing others, including the "man beside the pool" described in John 5; Bartimaeus, the blind man from Mark 10; and the four friends who lowered their paralytic friend through the roof

to be healed, as described in Mark 2. As a supplement to these readings, we made a card for someone who needed God's love; we learned how to find our blind spots; and we made a model of a stretcher, like the one the four friends used to lower the man through the roof to Jesus. We discussed how we can also help show God's love in our daily lives and made projects to help remind us to do these things. We continue to laugh and learn at the same time; all of the kids are engaged in the activities and we enjoy our time together. - *Heidi Bray*

### **Finance**

Thanks to all who pledged their support for 2011; it made the budgeting process much less stressful. The resulting 2011 budget is probably more conservative than it needed to be, but considering both the uncertain financial times and our continuing search for a new pastor, we felt that a conservative approach was the best course for now.

Low interest rates continue to provide very slow growth for our investments, which are now mainly held in savings accounts. The good news is that they are growing, albeit slowly. We will continue to search out better rates of return.

Consolidation of accounts is still underway. Soon all of our funds will be held in one bank, Border Trust, the exception being a single CD held by Key Bank that doesn't mature until 2012. This consolidation makes it easier to keep track of accounts and much easier when new signature cards are required.

We continue to maintain a reasonable cushion in the checking account with all bills being paid. Many thanks to Joyce Goodine, Ron Emery and Laura Wade who help keep our finances on track and accurate, not to mention making my job much easier.

Thank you all for your generosity and commitment to keeping SCCC in good financial health. If you'd like to serve on the Finance Committee, please contact me. - *God Bless, Carl Schroeder, Chair*



### **Building & Grounds**

The Building and Grounds Committee has been inactive during the last three months as we've had a lot of snow to deal with. Thanks to Stan Rodrigue for doing such a good job plowing and keeping the banks back.



We installed a new non-skid surface to the handicap ramp which has been a big help in keeping users safer.

We recently had a leak in the ceiling by the handicap door; the melting snow had created an ice dam in the roof valley behind the bell tower. This material has been removed and hopefully will solve the problem.

"Teach a child to love before someone else teaches him to hate."- *Sheldon Goodine, Chairman*

### **Women's Study Group**

Hard to believe another year has passed. I suppose when you enjoy what you're doing and are in the company of great friends, time goes quickly. Last month we finished reading "How To Give Away Your Faith." The focus was on how we can better witness to others and feel comfortable sharing our faith. We are reading "Why Men Hate To Go To Church"; so far it is very informative and humorous. Our group is informal, meeting at each other's homes the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month at 11AM for an hour, then lunch together, at which time we pray for those in need and ask God to guide us in our studies. Our next book may be "What God Really Thinks About Women." It has been a good year of learning and sharing. If interested, call me any time. - *In His Name, Joan C. Ferrone*

### **WEB SITES OF INTEREST:**

<http://www.jrsbible.info/bible.htm>  
Great Bible link...copy, paste, & bookmark!

<http://upperroom.org/> & <http://odb.org/>  
Daily devotionals

***Best Wishes for a Speedy Recovery... ..to***

**Eddy Nichols**, who has returned home following recent surgery. She is doing well but is very tired. She asked that folks wait a while before visiting as she needs her rest. Cards and notes are greatly appreciated! Please continue to keep her in your prayers.



BANNERS ANYONE? IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO JOIN ME IN DESIGNING AND MAKING A COUPLE NEW BANNERS FOR OUR CHURCH, PLEASE SPEAK TO ME. I HAVE MOST OF THE MATERIALS NEEDED - FAITH AMES

### **MAINE GLADIOLUS SOCIETY**

The annual BULB AUCTION of the Maine Gladiolus Society will be held at the church on Saturday, April 9 from 9:15 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. All are welcome. United States and Canadian bulbs, along with a new shipment of European bulbs, will be auctioned. A free lunch will be served at 12 noon, but donations are welcome. For more info: Faith Ames



After 39½ years of wandering in the desert, Mrs. Moses secretly asks for directions.

**Just wondering...**

Why is the third hand on a watch called the second hand?

If a word is misspelled in the dictionary, how would we ever know?

If Webster wrote the first dictionary, where did he find the words?

Why do we say something is out of whack?  
What is a whack?

Why does "slow down" and "slow up" mean the same thing?

Why does "fat chance" and "slim chance" mean the same thing?

Why do "tug" boats push their barges?

Why do we sing "Take me out to the ball game" when we are already there?

Why is it called "after dark" when it really is "after light"?

Doesn't "expecting the unexpected" make the unexpected expected?

Why are a "wise man" and a "wise guy" opposites?

Why is "phonics" not spelled the way it sounds?

If work is so terrific, why do they have to pay you to do it?

If all the world is a stage, where is the audience sitting?

Why do you press harder on the buttons of a remote control when you know the batteries are dead?

Why do we put suits in garment bags and garments in a suitcase?

How come abbreviated is such a long word?

Why do we wash bath towels? Aren't we clean when we use them?

Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?

Why do they call it a TV set when you only have one?

Why do we drive on a parkway and park on a driveway?



- † COMMUNION SERVICES: MARCH 6 & 9 – APRIL 3 – MAY 1
- † MEN'S BREAKFAST - MEMORIAL HALL, 8AM  
2<sup>ND</sup> SATURDAYS: MARCH 12 – APRIL 9 – MAY 14
- † WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP A – 11AM  
2<sup>ND</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup> THURSDAYS: MARCH 10 & 24 – APRIL 14 & 28 – MAY 12 & 26
- † WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP B – 6PM  
EVERY OTHER SUNDAY: MARCH 13 & 27 – APRIL 10 & 24 – MAY 8 & 22
- † CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS, 6:30PM  
2<sup>ND</sup> WEDS: MARCH 9 – APRIL 13 – MAY 11
- † KOINONIA (FAMILY NIGHT), 6:30PM  
3<sup>RD</sup> WED: MARCH 9 – APRIL 20 – MAY 18
- † ASH WEDNESDAY: MARCH 9 (KOINONIA)
- † PALM SUNDAY: APRIL 17
- † MAUNDY THURSDAY: APRIL 21
- † GOOD FRIDAY: APRIL 22
- † EASTER: APRIL 24
- † DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER: MAY 8

*In the happy moments, praise God.*

*In the difficult moments, seek God.*

*In the quiet moments, trust God.*

*In every moment, thank God.*

*- Guideposts Magazine*



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