
SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH



Rev. James W. Ferrone, Pastor

November 2011

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Advent begins on November 27 this year and we will begin the Season of Preparation on Sunday, November 20, after church. A new Advent booklet will be available, as will some fun projects for families. After church on "Thanksgiving Sunday," we will gather for a Koinonia. Please bring cold salads, casseroles, etc. - anything that doesn't require heating. We will supply rolls and cold cuts; Flock 5 will supply desserts.

Thanksgiving Eve Service will be at 7PM on Wednesday, November 23. The gathering will be informal, but will be a good introduction to Thanksgiving Day.

On Friday, November 25 at 6PM, we will decorate the church for Christmas. Pizza will be provided. Desserts will be welcomed. We can use all the help we can get, so please join us!



Sunday, November 27, we will "Prepare the Way of the Lord" by lighting the first Advent Candle and celebrating Holy Communion. By the way, we need four families to light candles on the four Advent Sundays.

December 4, 11, & 18 are the other Sundays in Advent. A Christmas presentation led by Faith will be held at 5PM on the 18th, followed by a Soup Supper at 6PM led by Chris.

December 24 is our Christmas Eve Service at 7PM and since Christmas is on a Sunday this year, we will also have a 10:30 AM service on the 25th.

Remember the Twelve Days of Christmas? These are not the 12 days *before* Christmas, but in most of the Western Church are the 12 days from Christmas until the beginning of Epiphany. Although Epiphany is actually on January 6, we will celebrate it on the 8th. On

that day, we will have the first Communion of 2012 and a Koinonia after church. Food details will be announced later. I would like to follow through on a tradition that we recently began, by having a plum pudding with two coins inside, a boy's side and a girl's side. The boy and girl finding the coins will become the King and Queen of Epiphany for 2012.

Traditions are fun; they teach us lessons and help us ground our Faith in the sacred rather than the secular. What a wonderful time to recommit yourself to our Lord and invite friends to worship, participate, and grow in Faith with you. - *Merry Christmas, Pastor Jim*

Church Council News

"Not Yet" (or "An Essay on Waiting")

One of the hardest things to say to your child is, "Not yet." A twelve-year old will respond with a "Yeah, right." A six-year old will ask you twenty times in as many minutes, "Now?" A six-month old will scream at you with tear-filled eyes.

The correct answer for the twelve-year old is a positive and affirming: "Yeah, right!" The correct answer for the six-year old is patient and understanding: "Soon, be patient." The correct answer for the six-month old is soothing noises and a comforting physical presence.

It is the hardest answer to receive: not yet.

When? Not yet.
Now? Not yet.
Now?? Not yet.



The learning of patience is never finished. Remembering what "not yet" feels like is key to how long a child is made to wait. Do not turn away your neighbor who wants to borrow something. Don't make someone wait when

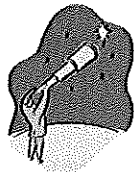
you can say "yes" today. At times, my own response has been wrong in this respect: I have made my children wait when I could have said "yes." I am grateful that my Heavenly Father never tries me in such a heartless way. I can wait for God because I know He does not make me wait for no reason. I can wait for God because I know He will provide. "All things work together for good for them that love God."

It would seem our wait is over in regard to ministerial candidates. The unanimous vote on Sunday called Paul Harwath to be our next pastor. I would like to thank all those who labored for us in this search. I am proud to be a part of all that we do here at SCCC. -
Regards, Ron Maxwell

Pastoral Search Committee

The Search Committee is about to be dissolved. The reason is a positive one. I believe God has provided the right person to be our new pastor. Pastor Paul Harwath preached on Sunday, November 6 and answered questions from the congregation during fellowship. The members voted on November 13 and the unanimous decision was to invite him to fill the pastoral position. I spoke with him that night, and he and his wife, Karen, would like to accept the call and move to Maine. They currently live in Sioux Falls, SD. Paul would like to begin his responsibilities in January 2012, and Karen will join him after their son graduates from high school and their house sells.

Thank you to the members of the church for their support during the almost 18 months of this selection process. Thank you, also, to Jim Ferrone and Roy Weeks for their professional insight during the search process. A very special thank you to the Search Committee for its diligence, commitment, and perseverance while we followed where God would lead us. The members of the Search Committee have been Jenny Clair, Rosie Feihel, Jack Kurtzman, Ron Maxwell, Janet Preston, Carl Schroeder, Emily Schroeder, Jayne Winters, and the late John Toohey. Your professional approach to the job was appreciated.



Communications & Outreach

With the transition period to a new minister, there are a lot of possibilities for things to either a) stay the same or b) change. We will miss Jim Ferrone tremendously as he has been vital in bringing our church towards a Biblically-based and structured environment with a governing body, clear outlines and expectations for results. We will miss you, Jim, and are so glad you are staying with us to continue to help us grow in the Word and offer your Christian talents. Our church definitely has grown spiritually and in numbers under your leadership and we THANK YOU so much for all you have given us!!

If we stay "the same," things will be the same. If, however, we embrace "change," new things could happen. I ask that everyone be open to new suggestions and present new ideas, so we can blend old and new together to make a meaningful worship for everyone, of all ages. All new would not be good; all old would not be good; but a blend of the two can be achieved if we put our hearts and minds to it.



If anyone has FUND-RAISING ideas, please speak to someone on the Council. Our three main projects are Turkey Pie Suppers, the Summer Rummage Sale and the Chicken Barbecue. If you have other thoughts, please let someone know because we really need some new fund-raising events, either to help with Missions or the general budget.

Bernie Welch will be taking over for me while I am in Florida for the winter. If you have any specific outreach projects that we could be working on to increase membership or bring new folks into our fellowship, let Bernie or me know. - *In Christ's love, Diane Rawson, Elder*

Buildings & Grounds

Progress has been made in updating the sanctuary: new paint, curtains for the windows and infilling the old doorway on the rear east part of the building. At this point, help is needed to move forward. We need input from the

congregation on work that has been done and plans to continue.

1. Paint colors?
2. Do we want to put the shutters back on?
3. With or without the curtains?
4. What to do with the former front wall and windows?
5. Other ideas? Please put your suggestions in the Building & Grounds mailbox in the kitchen.

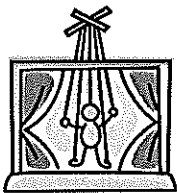
The cleaning of the yard by an anonymous volunteer was greatly appreciated! - *Sheldon Goodine, Building & Grounds Chair*

Teach a child to love before someone else teaches him to hate.

Christian Education

This Sunday school year began with our annual camp-out on Bradley Island. The weather cooperated, and we enjoyed our time together. Diane Rawson continues as Sunday school teacher with Richard, Gillian, & Hattie serving as assistants as they help students

with their lesson-related crafts. Lori Washburn has joined us as an assistant as well. The older group will be working on a nativity puppet show to be presented in December.



Our fall term has been spent studying Moses and his journey through the desert with the Israelites back to their homeland of Canaan. The Sunday school will do a presentation of what they've been learning on November 20. We prepared a presentation about light for the service on November 6 to complement Paul Harwath's message to the congregation.

We look forward to another fun year with our wonderful kids! - *Janet Preston, Christian Education & Diane Rawson, Sunday School Superintendent*

Mission & Benevolence

We continue to assist three families on a monthly basis and on special occasions, like children's birthdays, Thanksgiving and Christmas. The Committee recently acquired a new

family; Rosie Feihel coordinated with the school for a name of a family that could use some assistance. The point of contact at the school had one regret: having to choose one family when so many could use the extra help. Our Christian outreach does help families with needs and does display our love for others. Your response to the filling of the Thanksgiving baskets for these families has been tremendous. Thank you!

There will be a posting of a list with ages, genders and sizes for our Christmas giving to these families. Additionally, the Mission & Benevolence budget will provide the funds for their Christmas dinner. Thank you for your sustained support for families in our community throughout the years. They do appreciate your kindness, generosity and compassion. - *Jack Kurtzman, Chair*



John 15:12 - This is my commandment, that ye love one another as I have loved you.

Finance & Stewardship

By the time you read this, you should have received the Stewardship letter concerning your 2012 pledge to SCCC which was mailed on November 8th to 85 members and non-members. I'm praying each one of you will seriously consider committing to a pledge. This helps so much to support our efforts in drawing up the budget for next year. A pledge can be adjusted during the year of activity...it's not written in stone. If your situation improves or weakens so that your original commitment needs to be changed, just give notice to the Stewardship chair or Financial Officer. We'll love you no matter what! All pledges are confidential.

The 2012 budget is in process. We hope to keep it at a realistic and affordable level. Presently, the draft of the projected budget, which will be given to the Church Council at its December meeting, is being based upon the first three quarters of the year, which is customary procedure for most organizations and businesses. The year end figures will be reflected in the final budget, which will be

presented to members at the annual meeting in January.

My tenure as Deacon of Finance & Stewardship will cease at the end of the year. I was appointed to fill the vacancy created last May and to continue until the previous three-year term ended, which is December 31, 2011. I will continue through January to present the budget to the members and help initiate the responsibilities of this position to the "new person." If anyone feels a call to volunteer for this position, please speak to Ron Maxwell, Pastor Jim or anyone on the Church Council.

I am available to any inquiry as to just what Finance & Stewardship Chair entails. The records kept are for your inspection and consideration. The fall season is quite busy in compiling our reports and projections, so it would behoove the person who steps in to witness the evolvment as to what goes on behind the scenes. I will not make light of the responsibility, commitment and leadership that is required for this Committee. Search your mind and heart in your deliberation. -
Yours in Christ, Laura Wade



LADIES STUDY GROUP: Our mission statement is, "Our goal as women is to become more like God expects us to be through studying His word and reflecting His love by our actions."

We are reading "What God Really Thinks About Women" - it's a fascinating book about the roles women played and how Jesus, through compassion and love, helped them overcome all the doubts and insecurities that came their way each day. Some of the women we have studied are Mary, the woman at the well, the woman caught in adultery, and Ruth and Naomi. We meet every 2nd and 4th Thursday at 11AM in each others' homes. If you're interested in joining us, contact me at 445-3118 or joanjim@fairpoint.net -
Respectfully submitted, Joan

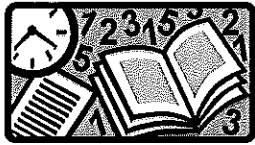


Please join us for the Sounds of Christmas, Sunday, December 18, 2011 at 5:00 P.M. in the sanctuary. A free soup supper put on by Chris will be held around 6:00 (donations appreciated). Some surprises and singing of your favorite Christmas carols, so please mark your calendar!! - Faith Ames, Chair



Just a few thoughts....

- *Don't let your worries get the best of you; remember Moses started out as a basket case.*
- *Some people are kind, polite and sweet-spirited. Until you try to sit in their pew.*
- *When you get to your wit's end, you'll find God lives there.*
- *God Himself doesn't propose to judge a man until he is dead. Why should you?*
- *Coincidence is when God chooses to remain anonymous.*
- *God promises a safe landing, not a calm passage.*
- *The Will of God never takes you to where the Grace of God will not protect you.*
- *You can tell how big a person is by what it takes to discourage him.*
- *The task ahead of us is never as great as The Power behind us.*
- *Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass; it's about learning to dance in the rain.*
- *If God is your co-pilot, swap seats!*



- † COMMUNION SERVICES: NOV 23 – NOV 27 - JAN 8 – FEB 5
- † MEN'S BREAKFAST - MEMORIAL HALL, 8AM, 2ND SATURDAY: TBA FOR 2012
- † MEN'S STUDY GROUP - 6:30PM, 2ND & 4TH TUESDAYS: NOV 22 – DEC 13 & 27 - JAN 10 & 24 – FEB 14 & 28
- † WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP A – 11AM, 2ND & 4TH THURSDAYS: DEC 8 & 22 – JAN 12 & 26 – FEB 9 & 23
- † WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP B – 6PM, EVERY OTHER SUNDAY: NOV 27 – DEC 11 (NEW BOOK ON ORDER). PLEASE SEE EMILY FOR INFORMATION.
- † CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS, 6:30PM, 2ND WEDNESDAY: DEC 14 – JAN 11 – FEB 8
- † CONFIRMATION CLASSES: SUNDAYS, 5PM
- † KOINONIA (FAMILY NIGHT), 6:30PM 3RD WEDNESDAY: NOV 27 [SUNDAY] - DEC 21- JAN 18- FEB 15
- † NOVEMBER 23, 7PM: THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE WITH COMMUNION
- † NOVEMBER 25, 6PM: HANGING OF THE GREENS PIZZA PARTY
- † NOVEMBER 27: 1ST SUNDAY IN ADVENT
- † DECEMBER 4: 2ND SUNDAY IN ADVENT
- † DECEMBER 11: 3RD SUNDAY IN ADVENT
- † DECEMBER 18: 4TH SUNDAY IN ADVENT
- † DECEMBER 18: CHRISTMAS MUSICAL PROGRAM, NATIVITY PUPPET SHOW, SOUP SUPPER, 5-7PM
- † DEC 24, 7PM: CHRISTMAS EVE CANDELIGHT SERVICE

- † JAN 8: "DEHANGING" OF THE GREENS AFTER CHURCH FELLOWSHIP; LUNCHEON WITH KING & QUEEN OF EPIPHANY
- † JANUARY 15: ANNUAL REPORTS DUE FROM COUNCIL/COMMITTEES
- † JANUARY 29: ANNUAL MEETING
- † DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER: FEB 12



Christmas Prayer

by Robert Louis Stevenson

"Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and the worship of the wise men. Close the door of hate and open the door of love all over the world. Let kindness come with every gift and good desires with every greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings, and teach us to be merry with clean hearts. May the Christmas morning make us happy to be Thy children, and the Christmas evening bring us to our beds with grateful thoughts, forgiving and forgiven, for Jesus' sake, Amen!"



*~ The LORD is good unto them
that wait for Him, to the soul
that seeketh Him.*

- Lamentations 3:25, KJV



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