
SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH



Rev. Paul Harwath, Pastor

February 2012

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Lent begins on February 22nd; we will be preparing for Easter by trying to discern the gifts God has bestowed on each of us. We will begin on Ash Wednesday and continue every Sunday throughout Lent. Instead of giving something up for Lent this year, you might try discovering your gifts and begin the sharing of them during this Lenten season.



I have had several young adults approach me about youth ministry possibilities. I would like to have several teens help out with the **Drive-In Movie Night** and do some brainstorming and planning at that time. If you are not able to be there, give me a call with your ideas. I am always available by phone: 605-201-4295.
In Christ, Pastor Paul

Church Council News



The Church Council met for the first time on Wed, February 8. Three new members were welcomed: Paula Vigue [Worship], Michelle Darveau [Finance & Stewardship], and Churchill Elangwe [Missions & Benevolence]. Jennifer Fleck accepted the appointment for the position of Council Secretary. The remaining members are: Sheldon Goodine [President and Building & Grounds], Janet Preston [Christian Education], and Diane Rawson and Bernie Welch [Planning & Outreach].

The members of the Council expressed their appreciation of the work done by the three members going off the Council (Jack Kurtzman, Ron Maxwell and Laura Wade) and thanked them for their service.

The Council wants to have an open door policy and receive input from members of the congregation, verbally or written. A spot has been set to receive all comments and suggestions from members on the Council agenda. We are excited to start the year with Pastor Paul Harwath as our spiritual leader - Welcome, Paul!

Remember: Teach a child to love before someone else teaches him to hate. - Sheldon Goodine, President

Communications & Outreach

Our church has a new pastor and we are delighted as Council members and as a larger church community! Our Pastoral Search Committee is to be congratulated for its energy and efforts.

Pastor Jim Ferrone's stewardship has provided a steady Christian rudder; his inspiration and empathy have left a mark on each of us in the congregation. He also has provided a firm foundation for our new pastor. He said to expect change and embrace it.



We are fortunate indeed now to have the Reverend Paul Harwath continue as our pastor and spiritual leader. Pastor Harwath most recently ministered in South Dakota, so at least the Maine winters won't surprise him! When asked to give a brief biography, here is what Pastor Paul had to say about himself:

"I grew up in Rockford, Illinois not too far from Chicago. At the age of 20, I took a job at one of the local television stations as an Assistant Field Production Director while working my way through college; we made commercials on location. A couple of years later, I took a job at the ABC affiliate as a videographer/reporter for the local news. I did this for about 12 years and freelanced on my own. I was lucky to be

chosen as one of the few videographers to do the on-field interviews with the Chicago Cubs during the 1984 playoffs.

During my career as a journalist, I have been able to interview two US Presidents and celebrities such as Bob Hope. I also covered the Stevie Ray Vaughn helicopter crash in Alpine Valley, Wisconsin. At that time, I worked as a part-time Youth Director for my church.

In the early 1990's, I produced several commercials for the Lutheran Church (ELCA). At that time, I was approached by the Assistant to the Bishop and asked if I would consider attending seminary. To make a long story short, I did attend Wartburg Seminary and graduated with my Masters of Theology in 1996.

In my years of ministry I have worked at several churches in western Iowa and South Dakota. My last ministry job was working with the homeless population of Sioux Falls. I was blessed to be able to work with saints from every denomination. I became increasingly irritated, not by the parishioners and saints of these denominations doing God's work, but by their leaders, as well as my own. These leaders used their teachings to divide God's people, pumping up their own denomination and tearing down others. If we profess the creeds, then we are the same Church. I left the ELCA and decided I would look for a call at a multi-denominational church that celebrated our differences, united around the creeds and used them to build the Body of Christ in a more powerful way. I was blessed to find a home at South China Community Church.

My wife, Karen, and I have six children, three grandchildren and another on the way. I love to fish, build my own archery equipment, and hunt. My wife is the CEO of a non-profit organization in Sioux Falls. I hope to have her join me as soon as possible." - Pastor Paul Harwath

Planning & Outreach plans to introduce our new pastor to the greater Central Maine community with local news media. We are also, of course, hoping to remind our

community of the rather remarkable 18-year stewardship that Pastor Jim provided SCCC.

Do keep your music ideas in mind and any other thoughts you may have as you visualize our church community being part of the local area and providing a positive Christian impact.
- Diane Webber-Rawson & Bernie Welch

Buildings & Grounds

The sanctuary looks like new! Beautiful due to the help of dedicated members/volunteers. The Building Committee will be meeting soon to go over this year's budget and determine what can be done to continue the work in progress. More information to come soon. If anyone has ideas or concerns, please let a Committee member know. - Sheldon Goodine, Building & Grounds Chair

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

Christian Education

Sunday School - With Diane away for the winter, Jennifer Fleck has taken over as Sunday school teacher. She brings a lot of energy, fresh ideas, and fun-filled activities. The topic of study for this winter term is Jesus' disciples and their role in supporting His mission.

Congratulations to three of our students, Angela Feihel, Phoebe Fleck, and Ian Maxwell, who were confirmed recently! They have proven to be, and will continue to be, good role models for our younger students.

Pastor Paul is hosting a drive-in movie night for children on Sunday, February 26 from 3-6PM. We will be making cars and watching a movie in Memorial Hall, popcorn included. Teens will be asked to help coordinate this event.



Bible Study - Pastor Paul Harwath is offering two Bible study classes: biweekly on Tuesday nights at 6:30 and every Sunday morning at 9:15. The Tuesday class will be finishing up its current theme on February 28. A new topic, to be determined, will begin on March 13. The

Sunday class is focusing on *Gifts* currently. All are welcome and encouraged to attend any and all of these classes!

Youth Group – Pastor Paul is eager to start a youth group. Their first informal meeting will take place at the Drive-in Movie Night, where they will brainstorm ideas for activities to come. – *Janet Preston, Christian Education & Diane Rawson, Sunday School Superintendent*

Mission & Benevolence

The focus of our efforts in 2011 was local in direction. The church was able to assist four families for the majority of the year with monthly food items, gifts for children's birthdays, holiday meal boxes, Christmas gifts for the whole family, and special school start-up items.

The Committee was able to assist three of the families with utility costs in December as a result of a generous gift from Floyd & Glenna's daughter and son-in-law. This gift was specifically directed towards this kind of assistance.



A request to the congregation to participate in donating seed money to a 2011 Erskine graduate was well received; \$400+ was collected. With that money, the student was

able to enroll for her 2nd college semester. The feedback from the student's mother is that she is doing better academically in college than she did in high school.

Your generosity and sincere interest in helping others made these things possible. The Committee looks for similar outreach efforts in 2012. - *Jack Kurtzman, Chair*

Finance & Stewardship

Our goal and dedication is to effectively monitor the SCCC finances and to address the responsibility of stewardship for our church and its members.

The stewardship pledge appeal was mailed during the second week of November. The response is gratifying and as of December 31, 2011, we had received \$41,681.

At the Annual Meeting on January 29, 2011, we presented the 2012 budget in the amount of \$69,362.91. The congregation passed it unanimously. As I explained at the meeting, a budget is an "estimate" based upon past "histories," current economic conditions and the overall view of the ability of SCCC to reach these goals. Our task during 2012 is to make every effort to match, or better yet, exceed the estimated Revenue side of the budget and reduce our Expenses wherever possible. Our income is derived from many resources and one very important factor is the time and energy all our people expend in furthering the cause of Christ.

Upon this Committee's recommendation and the Council's approval, retirement gifts were presented to Pastor Jim and Glenna on January 8th. The gift of a laser printer/copier to Glenna resulted in her unexpected need to secure a new computer. Perhaps this was a blessing in disguise...we certainly hope so.



Michelle Darveau stepped up to the plate in December and volunteered to become a Deacon and to "Chair" the Finance & Stewardship Committee, beginning in 2012.

She was accepted by the Church Council, voted in by the congregation on January 29, 2012 and ordained on February 12, 2012. She met with Joyce and me for a lengthy session in December for an orientation-type meeting. She asked all the right questions and we knew, without a doubt, that the right person was going to guide the financial future of SCCC for the next three years. I close with love to all and pass the torch to Michelle. - *Yours in Christ, Laura Wade, Past Chairman*

First, I want to share my deepest gratitude to Laura Wade for her dedication to the works of the church finances, and for her patience with helping me transition into the new position of Deacon of Finance & Stewardship. The value of her volunteer time and service is immeasurable, and for that I know we are all grateful. Thank you, Laura, for getting our church budget on track for 2012!

I also want to thank everyone who pledged their support for 2012; this pre-planning on your part makes our work on planning the budget much easier. The resulting 2012 budget will continue to operate on a conservative basis due to tough financial times all around, but the goal is to continue to meet the needs of our congregation, to grow our membership and to support our community.

We continue to maintain a reasonable checking account with all bills being paid. Many thanks to Joyce Goodine and Ron Emery who help keep our finances on track and accurate, PLUS I also want to send a "shout out" to the program managers within our church for also doing a fantastic job managing their program finances as well.

Thank you all for this opportunity to serve God and serve our church. I thank you for your generosity and commitment to SCCC, and I'm always available for suggestions or ideas that are in the best interest of our congregation. - *May God Keep You Always, Michelle Darveau*

Thank you - Joan and I want to thank everyone in the congregation for the wonderful send-off you gave on January 8. The fellowship, the songs and poems, the nice words and the "roast," the cards, the gifts, the purse and the prayers were fantastic beyond our expectation. May God continue to bless you throughout the coming years; we are truly grateful to and for you. - Yours in Christ's Service, Pastor Jim



LADIES STUDY GROUP: Please note effective February 22 the Women's Study Group will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays at 11:00 AM instead of Thursdays. If you're interested in joining us, contact me at 445-3118 or joanjim@fairpoint.net - *Respectfully submitted, Joan*

MANY THANKS!! I would like to thank all of you who worked so hard at Christmas time on the Sounds of Music. So many folks expressed to me how much they enjoyed the program, but it is due to every one of you who participated that made it such a happy and uplifting Christmas program. If you would like a small plastic 2012 calendar for your wallet, we have a few left which I put on the table, so please help yourself. - Faith Ames



I will be starting rehearsals for **LIBERTY, A Musical Celebration of Freedom**. The date will be Sunday, July 1, 2012 from 6:30-7:30PM, with refreshments after the program. I have a limited number of books, so if you're at all interested in singing in the chorus, please speak to me or call me at 445-2490. This is a wonderful patriotic musical and a fun one to sing, so please consider joining us. Rehearsals will start sometime in March. - Thanks, Faith



- ✚ COMMUNION: MARCH 4 – APRIL 1 – MAY 6
- ✚ MEN'S BREAKFAST: TBD FOR 2012
- ✚ MEN'S STUDY GROUP - 6: 30PM, 2ND & 4TH TUESDAYS: FEB 28 – MARCH 13 & 27 – APRIL 10 & 24 – MAY 8 & 22
- ✚ WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP A – 11AM, 2ND & 4TH WEDNESDAYS: FEB 22 – MARCH 14 & 28 – APRIL 11 & 25 – MAY 9 & 23
- ✚ WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP B – 6PM, EVERY OTHER SUNDAY: PLEASE SEE EMILY FOR INFORMATION – NEW BOOK TO BE DECIDED!
- ✚ CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS, 6: 30PM, 2ND WEDNESDAY: MARCH 14 – APRIL 11 – MAY 9
- ✚ CONFIRMATION CLASSES: TBD
- ✚ KOINONIA (FAMILY NIGHT), 6: 30PM 3RD WEDNESDAY: MARCH 21 – APRIL 18 – MAY 16
- ✚ DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER: MAY 16

Web sites to check out:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z4VrujheblY>

www.guideposts.org/turbans For info on making turbans for chemotherapy patients

www.hopespringshere.com Sharing Scripture verses with "Hope-isms"

A FLORIDA COURT SETS ATHEIST HOLY DAY

In Florida, an atheist created a case against Easter and Passover Holy days. He hired an attorney to bring a discrimination case against Christians and Jews and observances of their holy days. The argument was that it was unfair that atheists had no such recognized days.



The case was brought before a judge. After listening to the passionate presentation by the lawyer, the judge banged his gavel declaring, "Case dismissed!"

The lawyer immediately stood and objected to the ruling saying, "Your honor, How can you possibly dismiss this case? The Christians have Christmas, Easter and others. The Jews have Passover, Yom Kippur and Hanukkah, yet my client and all other atheists have no such holidays..."

The judge leaned forward in his chair saying, "But you do. Your client, counselor, is woefully ignorant."

The lawyer said, "Your Honor, we are unaware of any special observance or holiday for atheists."

The judge said, "The calendar says April 1st is April Fool's Day. Psalm 14:1 states, 'The fool says in his heart, there is no God.' Thus, it is the opinion of this court, that, if your client says there is no God, then he is a fool. Therefore, April 1st is his day. Court is adjourned..."

You gotta love a Judge that knows his scripture!

OLD PERSON PRIDE. "Old Person." Actually, it's not a bad thing to be called, as you will see.

- Old People are easy to spot at sporting events; during the playing of the National Anthem, they remove their caps, stand at attention & sing without embarrassment. They know the words and believe in them.
- Old People remember World War II, Pearl Harbor, Guadalcanal, Normandy and Hitler. They remember the Atomic Age, the Korean War, The Cold War, the Jet Age & the Moon Landing. They remember the 50 plus Peacekeeping Missions from 1945 to 2005, not to mention Vietnam.
- If you bump into an Old Person on the sidewalk, he will apologize. If you pass an Old Person on the street, he will nod or tip his cap to a lady. They trust strangers and are courtly to women.
- Old People hold the door for the next person and always, when walking, make certain the lady is on the inside for protection.
- Old People get embarrassed if someone curses in front of women and children and they don't like any filth or dirty language on TV or in movies.
- Old People have moral courage and personal integrity. They seldom brag unless it's about their children or grandchildren.
- It's the Old People who know our great country is protected, not by politicians, but by the young men and women in the military serving their country.

This country needs "Old People" with their work ethic, sense of responsibility, pride in their country and decent values. We need them now more than ever.



~ Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

- James 1:17, KJV



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