
SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH



Rev. Paul Harwath, Pastor

February 2013

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Thinking About Lent:

Lent is a season of preparation before Easter. Easter is the highlight of the Christian year. For the Christian Church, Ash Wednesday is the start of the season of Lent. Lent begins 40 days before Easter (Sundays are not included in the count).



Lent is a time for us to prepare and reflect on Jesus – His life, suffering, sacrifice, death, burial and resurrection. We do this by observing a period of repentance, moderation and spiritual discipline.

How has Jesus changed your life? How would you like Jesus to change your life? Lent is a time of change for the better and to think of ways we can improve ourselves and maybe help others. Remember that God so loved us that He gave us Jesus. Let's share that love with others. - *In Christ, Pastor Paul*



CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

The Church Council is dedicated this year in doing everything it can to grow our congregation. We have lost a number of our flock due to death, poor health and other circumstances.

Through the Worship, Communications and Missions Committees, we will be working with Pastor Paul in finding new ways to attract the

youth and young adults in our community. We came up with several new ideas at the last Council meeting and will follow up on them.

Two weeks ago, Pastor Paul's message was "let's go fishing." Each and every one of us needs to "go fishing" and invite a friend or relative to join us for Sunday service. Your ideas on how to improve attendance each Sunday are earnestly sought. Pass them on to any member of the Council or to Pastor Paul.

We have received a generous gift from the estate of Delmont Meader, which will be put into a trust called "The Meader Family Trust." We can use 6% per year on the anniversary of Delmont's death for repairs and maintenance of the church buildings and grounds. The amount of this trust is \$38,560.83.

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

Communications & Outreach:

This has been a busy year! We've distributed our quarterly newsletters, the website is updated regularly, a number of paid and free advertisements have been published for our church and activities, and we had a number of successful fundraisers this year.

For outreach, we have a Secret Pal Program for the elderly in our congregation, some rides have been arranged for those who need transportation (thanks, Jack), newcomers are welcomed, and flock lists are updated (thanks, Glenna) so that the church can communicate and help each other.



We had one turkey pie supper this year (we plan on two or three for 2013), a very successful Summer Sale and Chicken BBQ (thanks to Sheldon and Faith), and our first

Annual Dessert Auction in November prior to the holidays which brought in over \$600. We are planning a fundraiser Scrapbooking Event in early spring and hopefully a craft fair again some time this year.

Committee members are Bernie Welch (Co-chair/Elder), Jayne Winters (newsletter), Lisa Montagna (website), Joyce Goodine (assists with advertising), and Eddy Nichols (Secret Pals). Thank you to everyone - without their help, things would be more difficult! - *In Christ's love and service, Diane Webber-Rawson*

NOTE: I wish to thank the congregation for all your support and encouragement. As my term officially ended December 2012, someone else is being sought for replacement. I will continue in the interim or if no replacement is found and am willing to work with any member who steps forward for this position, which is most rewarding.



Our planning and outreach effort has been supported greatly by several narrative articles about our church and Pastor Paul. David Preston's descriptive writing and the

Town Line support has put a "face" on our new spiritual steward. We will focus more on such articles in the future and encourage each of you to send a contribution to your local paper or favorite magazine to sing praise about the effort our church is making in the community.

There is also an initiative to invite a group of Erskine and other high school age students to a coffee house type evening to have a place for youth fellowship and worship. Presently, there is a Christian club meeting at Erskine that might be interested in using our Fellowship Hall for an "off campus" meeting place. If you feel so called to be involved in our first coffee house evening, please speak to me, Pastor Paul or Sheldon.

We are also always on the look out for your ideas to help us meet and greet new members or visitors. We have been blessed in our church with people who take the time to find

out more about a new visitor by introducing themselves or inviting them to sit together at fellowship. You are all God's stewards and know how important having a church is in your life. Thanks for continuing to spread the word and make visitors feel welcome. - *Bernie Welch, Co-chair*

Ministry of Music:

The South China Community Church has seen its share of changes this past year. A new minister has arrived and dear friends have departed. Things are not quite the same as when I began tenure here, over fifteen years ago.

Some things have improved, some have not. The Worship Committee is functioning better than ever. Our regular meetings have been extremely productive, allowing us to form a weekly service which focuses on the weekly gospel. We meet ~5:00 - 5:30 on Tuesday evenings (afternoons). The scripture is read aloud, we discuss Pastor Paul's' direction for the message, choose hymns, and select prayers and responses in order to detail the upcoming service. There are more church members involved in this meeting than at any time previous. Anyone who would like to join us is encouraged to do so.

Changes to the music ministry have not been so positive. Our service music has been affected by a change in life style. Gone are the days when 8-10 singers would attend a weekly choir rehearsal. The ability to read music is on the wane. Hymns which were once standard are unfamiliar to many. Hymnals are being replaced by Christian music videos. These are issues I must resolve.



What has not changed is the focus of the music, which is "The Message." - *Yours in Christ, Chris Faris*

Worship Committee:

This quarter's news will be short and (bitter) sweet.

A few months have passed since the last report. I am missing Faith Ames very much;

she was an integral part of worship and a dear friend to me. Remembering her through her Memorial Fund... she brought music into our hearts and now with her Memorial Fund we can bring additional music into our church.

On another note, flowers for the sanctuary have been taken over by Marge Kurtzman... a heartfelt thanks! This used to be taken care of by Barbara Dowe and for a short while, I tried to cover.



Banners and the changing of them were always done by someone else as well; I am finding it difficult to remember what goes up when. A list of the banners and when they should be put up would be greatly appreciated! If you or someone you know has that information, please forward it in writing to me so that I may have it on file and hopefully get the banners up when they are supposed to be.

The burning of DVDs of our services is going much better this year. We are able to finalize them so that they may be viewed by others.



Bringing new contemporary music in has been halted for the time being, to some degree. Requests for the older hymns have been made by many and forwarded on to Pastor Paul.

Comments for or against a particular song sung in church or requests that we play a certain song should be submitted on the comment cards on the table near the sanctuary and placed in the comment box located on that same table.

Hoping the rest of the year brings music into your life and Jesus into your heart. - *Respectfully submitted, Paula Kimball-Vigue*

Buildings & Grounds:

Short Range Plans:

1. Stripe parking lot
2. Build stairwell to lower level
3. Replace ceiling & refinish floor in fireplace room

4. Add new speaker system

Long Range Plans:

5. Additional parking
6. New roof for Memorial Hall
7. Air conditioning system

Our budget for 2013 will limit the work we can do this year. We will be able to finish the inside west wall, window of the sanctuary and get the parking lot striped. With funds from "The Meader Family Trust" we can plan on doing more in the future. - *Sheldon Goodine, Building & Grounds Chair*

Christian Education



The Sunday school is studying the parables during these winter months. The students prepared and presented a puppet show telling the story of The Good Samaritan during

the children's message in January. Gillian Welch directed the well-received production. Abigail Maxwell is currently taking confirmation classes with Pastor Paul, who also continues to meet every Sunday morning at 9:15 for his Bible Study Group. They are studying and discussing the Book of Genesis.

Men's Bible Study has nine who regularly attend every other Tuesday evening; they are currently working on *Wild at Heart* by John Eldredge. We have two women's Bible Study groups running; both meet every other week.

There are about eight women in the Thursday morning group who are currently reading, *The Questions Christians Hope No One Will Ask* and discussing their answers in case someone does! They also have a Bible name quiz in which they listen to a story and try to guess who the person in the story is. Their third interest is women of the Bible and the Bible dictionary. They provide support for each other through sharing of sorrows and celebrations, sign cards for church members who are ill or missed, and share lunch together; the hostess that week makes a dessert. The other women's group meets every other Sunday night at 6PM at Emily Schroeder's house. Right now they are reading Priscilla Shirer's *The Resolution for Women* discussing how to set

better personal goals for themselves. Great fellowship going on!

New members are always welcome at any of our Bible study groups. For more information, please see Pastor Paul. – *Janet Preston, Christian Education & Diane Rawson, Sunday School Superintendent*

Finance & Stewardship

First, I want to thank everyone who pledged their support for 2013 AND for those who gave their time and stayed after Sunday worship to attend the Annual Meeting.



Our goal and dedication for 2013 is to manage and be excellent stewards of our \$68,080 budget, as proposed to the congregation at the Annual Meeting on 27 January.

The congregation passed the budget unanimously. Our Finance Committee will continue to consist of Mr. Don Nichols, Mrs. Laura Wade, Mr. Ron Emery and Mrs. Joyce Goodine.

Several key points are worth noting for the 2013 budget: weekly operating expenses and payroll for SCCC total \$990; it's important to note that currently 76% of our revenue depends solely on loose offerings and pledges made by SCCC family members and friends. The remaining revenue is generated by fundraising or donations. We are blessed to have a generous church family and community and a caring Finance and Church Committee to provide constant oversight of our budget to further the work of Christ. Everyone must take a role in building our church, whether by hosting or helping with a fundraising event or bringing in new members.

Another point at the Annual Meeting included an overview of the dwindling balance in the check book since 2010. We are hopeful the balance will sustain or increase because of the proposed savings from our new furnace and other improvements made to our church. Our bills continue to be paid on time. Thank you Joyce!

The Faith Ames Memorial Music Fund is coming together nicely. This fund will provide

support for music and worship growth within our church. A separate account will be opened and a new set of by-laws written. The Fund has received donations of \$1,332; her beautiful work and legacy will continue on in her absence. We love and miss you Faith.

I look forward to another exciting, successful year serving God and our church. I will keep folks updated as information becomes available and certainly you are welcome to contact me any time with any ideas, concerns or questions you have. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to SCCC. – *May God Bless and Keep You, Michelle Darveau*

Matthew 6:3-4

But when you give to the poor, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving will be in secret; and your Father who sees what is done in secret will reward you.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR THOUGHTS &



PRAYERS: The families & friends of Floyd Jordan, Faith Ames & Lorelei Robie, who have recently passed away. They are greatly missed by South China Community Church.



WEB SITES OF INTEREST:

Worldvision.org/knitforkids is a Knit for Kids program to provide children around the world with handmade knitted goods. For more information & to download patterns, visit the web site above.

hugwraps.org is a nonprofit organization for patients who can use a hug while undergoing chemotherapy, surgery or other treatment.



- † COMMUNION: MARCH 3 – APRIL 7 – MAY 5
- † DIRIGO CLUB'S BREAKFAST, 8AM, 2ND
SATURDAY OF THE MONTH: MARCH 9 – APRIL
13 – MAY 11
- † MEN'S STUDY GROUP - 6: 30PM, 2ND & 4TH
TUESDAYS: MARCH 12 & 26 – APRIL 9 & 23 –
MAY 14 & 28
- † WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP A – 11AM, 2ND & 4TH
THURSDAYS: MARCH 14 & 28 – APRIL 11 &
25 – MAY 9 & 23
- † WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP B – 6PM, EVERY
OTHER SUNDAY: PLEASE SEE EMILY FOR
INFORMATION
- † CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS, 6: 30PM, 2ND
WEDNESDAY: MARCH 13 – APRIL 10 – MAY 8
- † KOINONIA (FAMILY NIGHT), 6: 00PM
3RD WEDNESDAY: MARCH 20 – APRIL 17 –
MAY 15
- † PALM SUNDAY: MARCH 24
- † EASTER SUNDAY: MARCH 31
- † DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER: MAY 19

March 10: Daylight Savings Time begins

March 17: St. Patrick's Day

March 20: Spring begins



April 22: Earth Day

May 12: Mother's Day

May 27: Memorial Day

"Senior" version of *Jesus Loves Me*

JESUS LOVES ME

Jesus loves me, this I know,
Though my hair is white as snow
Though my sight is growing dim,
Still He bids me trust in Him.
(CHORUS)

YES, JESUS LOVES ME, YES, JESUS LOVES ME,
YES, JESUS LOVES ME, THE BIBLE TELLS ME
SO.

Though my steps are oh, so slow,
With my hand in His I'll go
On through life, let come what may,
He'll be there to lead the way.
(CHORUS)

When the nights are dark and long,
In my heart He puts a song.
Telling me in words so clear,
"Have no fear, for I am near."
(CHORUS)

When my work on earth is done,
And life's victories have been won.
He will take me home above,
Then I'll understand His love
(CHORUS)

I love Jesus, does He know?
Have I ever told Him so?
Jesus loves to hear me say,
That I love Him every day.



*~ Lent stimulates us to let the
Word of God penetrate our life
and in this way to know the
fundamental truth: who we are,
where we come from, where we
must go, what path we must take
in life.*

- Pope Benedict XVI



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