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# SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH



Rev. Paul Harwath, Pastor

February 2014

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## **PASTOR'S MESSAGE**



This has been a cold winter, but the people of South China Community Church help make living in this cold climate just a little bit warmer. We are blessed to have such a loving congregation. It is time to make a concerted effort to invite new people we meet to join us on Sundays to worship God and to share in the loving climate provided by a congregation who truly cares about God's people.

If we all pitch in and invite new people to SCCC, I believe God will bless this church with new members and increase our shared love that only the Spirit provides. This is an exciting time and I look forward to meeting new friends and increasing our family.

I am always available by phone: 207-314-3551. - *In Christ, Pastor Paul*

## **CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS**

### ***President's Report:***

Due to new employment opportunities, two of our Council members could not participate during the last quarter of the year. We are now looking to fill these offices, as well as other members who are due to go off the Council. They are Churchill Elangwee (Missions & Benevolences), Janet Preston (Christian Education), and Michelle Darveau (Finance).\* We pray that these positions will be filled to continue the word of Christ. - *Sheldon Goodine, President*

### **\*See Annual Meeting Report for update!**

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



## **Communications & Outreach:**

We have tried a few different activities to attract new attendees this past fall. On the first Sunday evening every month at 5PM, we have a contemporary worship service with modern music and instruments. Several of our "regular" folks also enjoy having this variety. We are very blessed to have Dave Archibald (Archie) accompany us. While Diane is gone, Archie and Ian Maxwell will be doing the music. Thank you both!



We held a few fund raisers: two turkey pie suppers and the annual Dessert Auction. The Dessert Auction is in November and is a lot of fun, giving people a nice dessert that can be frozen and used during the hectic holidays.

We scheduled a music group with the soup/chowder supper for December 15. However, that day we had one of the first big snowstorms and the music group was unable to make it. We went ahead with our own Christmas music program (thanks Chris, Preston Family, and others) and had a fabulous haddock chowder and beef stew supper, thanks to Chris Farris. The event was a success despite the weather!



If you are not on a flock list and want to be, please speak to Glenna Jordan. It is nice to be on a flock for several reasons: it is the main way we activate the prayer chain, your "flock" will look out for you should the need arise, and the flocks are on a rotating schedule to provide snacks for the coffee/fellowship hour every Sunday after church so it doesn't always fall on the same people.

Thank you to everyone who helps out with our elderly by providing rides, making sure they are OK, and being there for them. Thank you



also to those who provide rides for other people in the congregation - you are angels!

Have a blessed New Year, a faith-filled 2014, and may God's spirit move you forward. - *In Christ's love and service, Diane Webber-Rawson & Bernie Welch, Co-chairs*

**Worship Committee:**

Our congregation had some worship "upgrades" during the 2013 year including a new sound system (a portion to still be done in 2014) that was provided to us at a wonderfully discounted cost, new cloths for the sanctuary table, and communion plates that were generously donated by members of the church.

The Worship Committee that started in 2012 includes Sheldon Goodine, Pastor Paul, Chris Faris, Diane Rawson, and myself. Together we are still working on trying to get music to go with the message. We meet every Tuesday, currently at 5:30 PM. We have had some wonderful new songs added to our service written by some talented members of the church: Chris Faris, Carl Schroeder, Sheldon Goodine, and Diane Rawson. If you have a song that you would like to contribute, written by you, please bring them to me or join us at our weekly meeting.



We also started a contemporary service for the first Sunday evening of every month. A big "Thank You" to Dave (Archie) Archibault and Diane Rawson for volunteering their musical talent to help us start the process and to Paul Harwath for his messages. A new addition to this is Ian Maxwell; if you haven't heard him play the piano, you should come and join us for the next contemporary service to be held on March 2. He is wonderful! Some people have attended the service, even through this winter weather. We are hoping that after a few months we will be able to advertise the service more, draw more people in, and build the service as well as the church. If you are able to come, please do, and bring a friend!

We have had social gatherings around music and look forward to more such events in the future. Guest musicians include Lenny and Joel for our Veteran's Day service and Richard Preston playing the piano have been "music to my ears." There have been others as well; I love hearing all of their music. One of our recent events was supposed to include Heavenly Sound, but due to weather they were unable to attend. Those that did come had a wonderful time eating, singing, and enjoying fellowship with one another. That is something I hope to do again next year! The hanging of the greens and taking them down were done by a fun group of people.

Finally, I sought and received assistance from many people this year; I appreciate all the help and support given by the members of the committee and the congregation. I would not be able to do my job without it and the support from our Lord above. In closing, I wish to acknowledge our God's hands in every aspect of this year. I thank him for blessing me with such a wonderful church family and for blessing all of our efforts as we continue to build his church. Thanks to everyone that has been using their gifts and talents to praise God each and every day and for a wonderful year. Comments, please keep them coming. May God bless 2014! - *Respectfully submitted, Paula Kimball-Vigue, Elder of Worship*

**Christian Education:**

We are still looking for Sunday school help. If you are interested, please see Janet Preston.



One of the women's study groups has discussed "The Resolution for Women" by Priscilla Shirer earlier this year. They are now working through Jonathan Falwell's "1000 Days-the Ministry of Christ." The group meets on alternate Sunday evenings. Please contact Emily Schroeder for more information.

Another women's group is reading the book, "Questions Christians Hope No One Will Ask." They are also studying the women of the Bible by playing a game "Who is it?" in which several clues are given about a person or

event in the Bible and they try to guess the answer. Members take turns hosting the group on Wednesday mornings at 11AM and eat lunch together at noon for personal prayer and fellowship. If you are interested in this group, please contact Joan Ferrone.

The Men's Bible Study group meets on alternate Tuesday evenings at the church. They are currently discussing the Book of Romans. Paul's Sunday morning group is working its way through the Bible from the beginning. They began with Genesis and Exodus, and are now working their way through Numbers. Anyone interested in either of these groups should see Pastor Paul.



These groups have fulfilling fun whether there are three or eight attending. "Matthew 18:20, For where two or three come together in my name, I am there with them." *Respectfully, Janet Preston-Christian Education*

### **Finance & Stewardship:**

This is my first report as Chair of the Finance Committee. I would like to share with you some of the important discussions the Council has been having. First of all, pledges for 2014 are down significantly. This is not a plea to increase your pledge. Quite a few of you give regularly, but have not filled out a pledge form. It is not too late, and it helps us know what is coming in so we can plan accordingly. If you intend to give on a regular basis and have not filled out a pledge form, please let me know so you can complete one.



We will be including a quarterly financial update in the bulletin this year. We have a very generous congregation and want to keep everyone informed about our finances. As I mentioned above, pledges help us plan the year and we all give to the best of our ability. If possible, it is important to the church that we make an attempt to fulfill our pledges, so we don't end up short at the end of the year. For those of you who would like to know if you are on track with yours each quarter, we will

have that information available upon request as well. I am open to suggestions. Please let me know if you have any! *Respectfully, Janet Preston - Finance*

### **ANNUAL MEETING – January 26, 2014**

President Goodine noted that active member count decreased this year from 73 to 63 and that we had lost 14 members over the last two years. A moment of silence was observed for those who have left this earth this past year to be with God: Faith Ames, Lorelie Robie, William (Billy) Farrington, John Spangler, and Mildred Priest. Abigail Maxwell was the only new member in 2013.

### **Approved By-law Revisions:**

Article 4.10 President.

4.10 (d). The Finance Officer cannot serve as President of the Council

Article 4.13 Treasurer/Financial Officer(s).

4.13 (i). The Finance Officer cannot serve as President of the Council

Article 5.5 Finance & Stewardship Committee.

5.5 (7). The church shall not be in the business of loaning money. In the event that the church becomes aware of a family or person in need, the Council may vote to give a financial gift to the needy person. The Council may elect to take a collection from the congregation for this purpose.

In addition, even with a reduction in the upcoming budget, there is a shortfall in revenue. The Council voted to transfer \$8,000 from the Living Memorial Fund to the Church General Account so the Treasurer would have funds to cover current expenses. The proposed 2014 budget, with transfer of funds, was approved by members. Our by-laws do not require that this money be paid back to the Memorial Fund, but if it is financially possible, we will do so. The by-laws do require this transfer have the approval of the Finance Committee. Ron Emery mentioned that the Living Memorial Fund would still have a balance over \$50,000.



**Approved New Council Members:**

Christian Education: OPEN - no candidates  
Worship: Paula Vigue  
Communications & Outreach: Diane Rawson,  
Bernie Welch (Shared Position)  
Finance: Janet Preston  
Building & Grounds: Sheldon Goodine  
Mission & Benevolence: Glenna Jordan  
Clerk/Council Secretary: Glenna Jordan



**Guidedpost thoughts to consider:**

"Friendship is God loving us through someone else."

"Happiness is not the absence of problems; it's the ability to deal with them."

"Sometimes when things are falling apart, they may actually be falling into place."

**Web sites of possible interest:**

www.inspiringvoices.com (Click on "Packages" at the top of the screen, then "Keepsakes of Faith" to create family memories)

www.elizabethdolefoundation.org (Caring for military families)

untileverytroopcomeshome.org,  
soldiersangels.org or anysoldier.com (Care packages, letters, cards, etc. sent to soldiers during deployment; "Adopt a Soldier")



\*My train of thought has left the station.



\*Be yourself. Everyone else is taken.

\*Never trust an atom. They make up everything.

\*Six out of seven dwarves are not Happy.

\*The Hokey Pokey Clinic: a place to turn yourself around.

\*Call God today. No long distance. No roaming charges. Always an open line.

\*Seven days without prayer makes one weak.

\*The best vitamin for making friends..... B1

\*The heaviest thing you can carry is a grudge.

\*One thing you can give and still keep...is your word.



- † COMMUNION: MAR 2 - APR 6 - MAY 4
- † DIRIGO CLUB'S BREAKFAST: NOT BEING SCHEDULED AT THIS TIME
- † MEN'S STUDY GROUP - 6:30PM, 2<sup>ND</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup>  
TUESDAYS: FEB 11 & 25 - MAR 11 & 25 - APR 8 & 22 - MAY 13 & 27
- † WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP A - 11AM, 2<sup>ND</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup>  
THURSDAYS: FEB 13 & 27 - MAR 13 & 27 - APR 10 & 24 - MAY 8 & 22
- † WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP B - 6PM, EVERY OTHER SUNDAY: PLEASE SEE EMILY FOR INFORMATION ON OUR NEW BOOK!
- † CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS, 6:30PM, 2<sup>ND</sup>  
WEDNESDAY: FEB 12 - MAR 12 - APR 9 - MAY 14
- † KOINONIA (FAMILY NIGHT), 6:00PM  
3<sup>RD</sup> WEDNESDAY: FEB 19 - MAR 19 - APR 16 - MAY 21
- † DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER: MAY 11



 She was in the bathroom, putting on her makeup, under the watchful eyes of her young granddaughter, as she'd done many times before. After she applied her lipstick and started to leave, the little one said, "But Gramma, you forgot to kiss the toilet paper good-bye!"

My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, 62. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"

A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like: "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tire; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked wild raspberries in the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking this all in. At last she said, "I sure wish I'd gotten to know you sooner!"



My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo and I said, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old," he replied.

A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather's word processor. She told him she was writing a story. "What's it about?" he asked. "I don't know," she replied. "I can't read."



A second grader came home from school and said to her grandmother, "Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today." The grandmother, more than a little surprised, tried to keep her cool. "That's interesting," she said, "How do you make babies?" "It's simple," replied the girl. "You just change 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'."

Children's Logic: "Give me a sentence about a public servant," said a teacher. The small boy wrote: "The fireman came down the ladder pregnant." The teacher took the lad aside to correct him. "Don't you know what pregnant means?" she asked. "Sure," said the young boy confidently. "It means carrying a child."

*"For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me."*

*- Matthew 25:35*



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