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# SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Rev. Paul Harwath, Pastor

May 2015

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## **PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

**PENTECOST** is the great climax of the Easter Season, with flame red as the appropriate color for the day. This is the day when we celebrate the sending of the Holy Spirit with all God's gifts and commissioning power for our ministries; the day when we witness to that outpouring of Spirit into our hearts. Pentecost is filled with symbols - art, glorious music, drama - however the Spirit leads us. This season begins with Trinity Sunday and concludes with the Reign of Christ. This is the long season of growth where we go forward as people inspired on the journey by the risen Christ and empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Our summer members are coming home. Let's share a loving summer and invite all those whom we meet to experience Christ with us through worship and church events like the cookout, rummage sale, special music presentations, etc. - *God's blessings and love, Pastor Paul*



## **CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS**

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

It looks like it will be a busy summer with fundraisers at church and hopefully more summer folks joining us. Be sure to welcome anyone new and let them know they are always welcome here!

Please note that two of the Council members' terms are up this December: Sheldon Goodine's for Building & Grounds and mine for

Communications & Outreach. We have served on the Council for quite a while now, so if you feel called toward either of these positions, please pray about it and consider serving in this capacity. New ideas and visions are always welcome! Please don't hesitate to speak to me or Sheldon about what is involved and know that we would be available to help you.

Thank you for all those who completed a survey for the Pastor and/or Music Director. The results are being presented to both Pastor Paul and Chris as tools for improvement and words of encouragement. Again, as I've indicated before, we are truly blessed to have these two talented and caring individuals who lead us weekly in meaningful worship.

**The church service time change to 10:00 AM year 'round will begin on Father's Day, June 21** on a trial basis. Once fall and winter arrive, we will see how it is working and adjust if necessary.



Thank you to everyone who fills in during my absences; it truly is a blessing to work with the rest of the Council and this congregation. - *In Christ's service, Diane Rawson, President*

### **Missions & Benevolence:**

As you have read in the bulletin, the Benevolence Fund continues to assist two families (3 adults & 6 children) with monthly food and other perishables. We continue to stay within our reduced budget for 2015. However, we need your continued support with the donation of non-perishable foods, juices, paper/plastic products and personal supplies. We also appreciate your response to birthday gifts for the children. We have presented gifts to a 15yr. old boy in January, a 14yr. old girl in May and are currently

receiving gifts for 12 and 14yr. old boys who have June birthdays. Thanks to those who provide the extra monthly help to these families, including those who give cash donations to Eddy, Marge or myself to make purchases for them.

In February, we had a \$100 donation from Modern Woodmen and, per John Boynton, learned it was from the "Modern Woodmen Hometown Heroes Award" to help the needy folks we support. Thanks to Ron Emery for sending a special card to thank them for this donation. This has been credited to our Benevolence Fund and will be used for special expenses for the families or another worthy cause.

Thanks to Marge Kurtzman for providing Easter Buckets and to all those who helped fill them for the 6 children. Also, thanks to Marge for assisting with the Benevolence purchase and presentation of the carnations for Mother's Day.



Since the first of the year, I have delivered several bags of good, used clothing to the Homeless Shelter and am pleased that several families are now making their own visits to deliver useful items. Now that Rosie is working at the Shelter, she is in a position to be more aware of the requests. She reminds us that there is always a need for personal supplies for the children and adults, as well as art supplies for children: sketch pads or construction paper, paints, a variety of sizes of paint brushes, etc. I will gladly deliver any donations.



As always, please be aware of the Special Projects such as the "Adopt a Platoon" donation container that Joan Ferrone has in Memorial Hall. Also, thanks to those who knit the beautiful prayer shawls for cancer patients. The Benevolence Committee thanks those who so generously respond to our request for donations to our various missions. Thanks for your sharing & caring and "God

Bless." - Glenna Jordan, Deacon/Benevolence Chair

### **Building & Grounds:**

It was a long and cold winter, but we have made it to spring! We used more fuel for heat than was budgeted; without any history of the number of gallons used, we went with a figure of 1,800 per year. The first heating season (2013-2014), we used 2,225 gallons; in 2014-2015, we used 2,312 gallons with the budget \$2.199 per gallon. This year, the cost will be under \$2.00 per gallon and we will budget for 2,000 gallons. We also utilized most of the Operations budget for snow removal and roof shoveling.

We purchased new solar shades for the windows behind the pulpit and are discussing how they will be adjusted and by whom.

On Sunday, May 17, 16 hardy souls gathered to rake leaves, trim branches and do all the annual outside clean-up jobs to keep the church grounds attractive and inviting to those wishing to attend our beautiful church. A big thanks to all who helped!



Remember one very important thought: "Teach a child to love before someone else teaches him to hate." There is a lot of hate being taught in the world today. Please pray for this to change. - Peace be with you - Sheldon Goodine, Chair



### **Christian Education:**

The Sunday school year is almost over and I am pleased to report it was a good one. While attendance was sporadic, a lot was accomplished. We started with Genesis, then the story of Joseph, Advent, Christmas, the disciples, parables, Easter, and now Pentecost. The class memorized the names of the Apostles and is "singing" the Lord's Prayer. We

will finish up with learning the order of service. Special thanks to Pastor Jim, our Bible study teacher, and Maggie Wallis for working with the youngest child. - Joan Ferrone, Christian Education Chair

### Women's Study Group



We have just begun reading 'All the Women of the Bible' - about their lives and times and comparisons to how we live today. Through understanding these women, we hope to discover the God behind their stories and ours. *Mission Statement: Our goal as women is to become the people God expects us to be by studying His word and reflecting His love through our actions.* Anyone interested in joining our group, we meet the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month in one another's homes at 11AM. Feel free to give me a call @ 445-3118. - Joan Ferrone

### Adopt a Platoon

Thanks to everyone for the generosity you've shown to our troops. May we not forget their sacrifices and continue to show our love and support; there is a red container for contributions on the chart/information table. - Joan Ferrone

### Prayer Shawls

Over two dozen shawls have been donated this year to cancer patients at the Medical Center. All sizes and colors are welcomed, as they are for children, men and women alike. The need is great because the shawl stays with each person. The time spent in making them and most important, the prayers said for the individual, are very much appreciated. If you knit or crochet, I urge you to help with this outreach project.

### Veterans

Quilts for single beds are needed. They can be made of any material, knitted or crocheted, but must be homemade to show how much we care and appreciate the veterans' service to our country. The quilt is also special to the one receiving it: a handmade quilt on a bed makes



it more like home. I have used left over yarn of many colors, so feel free to use your imagination. Questions? Call me @ 445-5118 - God Bless, Joan Ferrone

### Communications & Outreach:

Thanks to Beth Preston, we have a Facebook page! Our SouthChinaCommunityChurch.org web site is alive and well, updated & maintained by Lisa Montagna.



We have a number of fundraisers planned this summer, so watch for more details. The annual rummage sale and chicken barbeque will likely be August 15; you may bring in your items for sale at any time and leave them in the back of Memorial Hall, but **please no clothing or electronics this year**, as they are difficult to sell.

Thanks to Carl Schroeder for organizing the concert with Dwight Tibbetts, a talented musician from Downeast Brass, who presented his original Christian music with us on May 22. Dessert was enjoyed afterward; thanks to all who attended. The free-will offering went toward Matthew Corey's mission trip to India which Dwight is raising funds for.

If you have a new or updated e-mail address, please drop in the e-mail box or give it to Janet Preston or me. Being totally postal, I hate not using the 'regular' mail as much, but the e-mails do get information to you sooner.



China Community Days are August 7, 8, and 9 this year. We hope to set up a booth for our church on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup>, so if anyone would like to help, please see one of us. - *In Christ's love, Diane Rawson/Bernie Welch, Co-chairs*

### Worship Committee:

It has been a few months now since I assumed my new role on the Worship Committee. I continue to learn; perhaps I've made a few boo-boos, but hopefully no major blunders!

Worship services are recorded to a DVD each week. If you would like to enjoy that special hymn again, have more time to listen to the message or view a service you missed, feel free to take a disc home to view. This is also a great way to bring the service to someone not able to attend! Discs are labelled with the date of the service and are currently stored in the library downstairs; the more recent recordings will soon be moved to the table in the Fellowship Room. This is a self-serve operation and a sign-out sheet will be available.



The Worship Committee continues to meet Wednesday mornings to choose hymns and music for the upcoming week. The recent survey showed support for the full spectrum of music: traditional and contemporary, fast and slower paced, new and old. We hope to schedule a variety of music and include favorites that appeal to all. If you have a favorite you have not heard recently or a new piece you would like us to consider, please let me know. I am always happy to hear comments and concerns regarding the music or other worship matters.

Working with the Council and seeing the effort that goes into providing services has certainly given me new appreciation for our church. We are all so blessed to be able to freely worship at this church! - *In Christian Love, Cheryl Baker, Elder of Worship*



**Did you know** that out of the world's population. . .

- 4% die attending movies?
- 8% die eating in fast food restaurants?
- 10% die in home accidents?
- 10% die in lounges and taverns?
- 13% die in bars?
- 18% die from smoking?
- 47% die from accidents?

**BUT only 1 out of 75 million people die in choir rehearsal!** As you can see, staying out of the choir may be hazardous to your health!

**Please consider joining our choir - no pressure:** Come to a few rehearsals and services, then decide if you want to make the commitment after that. And there are collateral benefits of singing in a church choir:

1. You don't have to dress up; the robe hides a lot.
2. The ushers never pass the collection plate in the choir loft.
3. You have a guaranteed seat Christmas Eve.

*Being in the choir presents an opportunity to learn & grow together in the service of God. What a privilege to be used by God for this purpose! **The best reason to join a church choir? You get to praise God through song.** - From [choralnet.org](http://choralnet.org)*



**Finance & Stewardship:**

Total expenses through April are \$21,096: 33% of what we budgeted, which is exactly right as we are 1/3 of the way into 2015. We are pretty close to targeted spending in all areas except Operations (due to the large plowing expenses we had this winter) and Fundraising (nothing spent yet). The plowing is over with for now & our Turkey Pie Suppers will begin May 30th.

We are a bit behind on the revenue side: we've brought in \$18,880.58, but projected revenue by this time was ~\$2000 more than this. We are gearing up to have a Turkey Pie Supper every month throughout the summer, with two chicken barbeques, which should help. Offerings are right on target, but includes ~\$1000 that goes directly into our Memorial Fund account.

**Balances as of April 30 are:**

Checking Account	\$ 3,557.58
Memorial Funds	60,027.20
Meador Fund	34,147.00
Faith Ames Fund	2,119.21
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 99,850.99</b>

**Checkbook balance: \$2,160.89**

Thank you for your generosity. I feel so blessed to be part of such a wonderful, supportive church family. - *Respectfully, Janet Preston, Deacon of Finance*



**New contact information:**

E-mail address for Cheryl Baker:  
[cbaker@fairpoint.net](mailto:cbaker@fairpoint.net)

E-mail address for Chris Faris:  
[cjlfaris@gmail.com](mailto:cjlfaris@gmail.com)

Laura Wade  
712 S. 9th Street  
Laramie, WY 82070  
Phone: (307) 742-0706  
E-mail is the same: [laura@keewade.net](mailto:laura@keewade.net)



*Why couldn't Jonah trust the ocean?*  
Because he knew there was something fishy about it.

*Where was Solomon's temple located?*  
On the side of his head

*How do we know Peter was a rich fisherman?*  
By his net income



**PLEASE REMEMBER:**

Pastor Jim, whose surgery was pending at time of publication.

Family & friends of Barbara Stowe, who recently passed away after lingering illness/complications.

- † COMMUNION: JUNE 7 - JULY 5 - AUGUST 2
- † MEN'S STUDY GROUP - 6:30PM, 2<sup>ND</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup>  
TUESDAYS: JUNE 9 & 23 - JULY 14 & 28 -  
AUGUST 11 & 25
- † WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP A - 11AM, 2<sup>ND</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup>  
WEDNESDAYS: JUNE 10 & 24 - JULY 8 & 22 -  
AUGUST 12 & 26
- † WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP B - 6PM, EVERY OTHER  
SUNDAY: JUNE 7 & 21 - JULY 5 & 19 - AUGUST  
2, 16 & 30
- † CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS - 6:30PM, 2<sup>ND</sup>  
WEDNESDAY: JUNE 10 - JULY 8 - AUGUST 12
- † MAY 30: TURKEY PIE SUPPER, 5-6:30PM
- † MAY 31 (5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF THE MONTH): PASTOR'S  
DISCRETIONARY FUND DONATIONS
- † MAY 31: SPECIAL CAKE AT FELLOWSHIP TO  
RECOGNIZE MAY BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES
- † JUNE 7: WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30 AM WITH  
HOLY COMMUNION
- † JUNE 14: CHILDREN'S SUNDAY
- † JUNE 21: WORSHIP SERVICE CHANGES TO 10:00  
AM ON FATHER'S DAY! (YEAR 'ROUND ON A  
TRIAL BASIS)
- † JUNE 27: TURKEY PIE SUPPER, 5-6:30PM
- † JUNE 28: SPECIAL CAKE AT FELLOWSHIP TO  
RECOGNIZE JUNE BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES
- † **DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER: AUGUST  
16, 2015**

*“And when the day of Pentecost  
was fully come, they were all  
with one accord in one place.”*

*- Acts 2:1*



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