
SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH



Rev. Paul Harwath, Pastor

August 2015

PASTOR'S MESSAGE



Wow! What a crazy summer, from traveling to Kosovo with my son, Luke, to Luke and his family moving to Maine - this summer will be a summer to remember. How has your summer been? Have you done all that you wanted to do? Have you seen all the things you wanted to see? Are you getting ready for fall? Is God at the center of all your activities?

God has given us this wonderful gift of life where every day can be an adventure if you make it so. If God is at the center of all you do, you need not fear things going wrong. Things do go wrong, but with God in charge, somehow everything works out. Sharing adventures brings people together, not only when things go right, but especially when things go wrong.

I remember a vacation when it rained every day for two weeks, but it is one of the most treasured memories I have of spending time with my grandfather. I look back and it's the bumps in the road that have blessed my life. What makes this possible is knowing that whatever happens, God loves us and always blesses us, even in the hard times. He does not take away the difficulties, but makes flowers bloom from the wreckage of our lives. This gift is for all who share Jesus's love with those around them and who are able to let go and give control to Him who controls all things. - *God's Love to all - I missed you, Pastor Paul*

GLORY
TO
GOD
IN THE
HIGHEST!

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

President's Report:

Is it just me, or has summer simply flown this year? Just about everyone I've spoken with feels a bit overwhelmed with too much going on, small or large crises happening, and nothing staying constant. As Christians, however, we can be assured of the constant presence and love of God and that He is always there with us (Heb. 13:5&6). The world is getting to be a scary place (it always has been, but seems worse now because we see so much of it) with threats of ISIS, terrorists, and anti-Christian movements threatening our freedoms to express our Christianity. But despite all this, we are to put on the armor of God and stand firm in our faith (Eph. 6:10-18).



Is this armor to cause hate? No, not necessarily. It is to arm us with the truth of God's message of grace, salvation, changed lives, and peace. The world certainly needs that. We all do. The Bible tells us we are not of this world, but we are in it (John 15:18 and 19). We can look forward to a better place. My father-in-law, who just lost his wife, said the other day that he could picture her selecting their room in "the mansions of heaven." What a lovely picture, what a treasure to cling to. May the PEACE of Christ be with us so we may be ambassadors of His peace. - *In Christ's service, Diane Rawson, President*

Missions & Benevolence:

The Benevolence Fund continues to assist two families (three adults & six 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, juice, paper/plastic products or 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, two 12 and 14yr old boys in June, a 9yr old boy in August, and are currently receiving gifts for a boy who will be 18 in September. Again, thanks to those who help us provide the extra monthly assistance to these families, including those who give cash donations to Marge or myself to make purchases for them.

In June, Sheldon Goodine alerted us to the needs of the Reed family whose home and all possessions were lost in a fire. Through donations, we provided clothing for each family member, as well as bath towels, etc.

Thanks again to all who responded to our request for donations for school supplies and clothes for the six children; these will be delivered next week.



Please keep the Homeless Shelter in mind when disposing of good, used clothing or household things. I will gladly deliver any donations.

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.

Again, 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:

Not much has been going on this summer; we've spent 78% of the total budget for this year as the result of extra snow plowing, a huge increase in our property insurance, and the pay-off of last year's propane budget. Last year, the propane budget was \$400/month; this year it will be only \$303/ month.

We have a quote of \$1,680 from Bard Paving to clean up the west end of the parking lot and this will add three more parking spaces. No action has yet been taken.

We have been given a large TV to be installed between the speakers in Memorial Hall; plans are under way to get this project done.

Nothing has been taken out of the Meader Family Trust so far this year and nothing is planned at this time. "Teach a child to love before someone else teaches him to hate."- *Peace be with you - Sheldon Goodine, Chair*

Christian Education:

Sunday school is scheduled to start on September 13. I still need teachers for the various age groups. If you can help in any capacity, it would be helpful. **There will be a meeting for all teachers after service on the 6th of September.** I'm asking everyone to pray about this. We need a Sunday school - these children need a knowledge of the Bible, especially in this day and age. - *In His name, Joan Ferrone, Christian Education Chair*

Adopt a Platoon

We have not sent a donation in many months, so this is a reminder to please help with this important cause by placing your contributions (even loose change is appreciated!) in the red container on the information table. I'd like to send our donation by October, then at Christmas, and again next spring and summer.



Of course, we will do whatever we can. Call me if you have any questions @ 445-5118. - *Joan Ferrone*



Prayer Shawls

Thank you for keeping this project going for three years now! I hope it can continue for as long as needed. Information and knitting/crocheting instructions can be found on our chart table. - *Joan Ferrone*

Communications & Outreach:

Summer has been very busy with a number of successful fundraisers, such as Turkey Pie Suppers, the summer Chicken BBQ, Rummage Sale, and Cookie Walk. **THANK YOU** to everyone who helped, donated, cooked, organized, etc., as it all truly has been a group effort!

We are cancelling the fall Chicken Barbecue and replacing it with another Turkey Pie Supper in September (and maybe another in October) due to "less" work involved. Someday maybe we won't need so many fundraisers to help meet our budget, but that will require increased attendance and participation of churchgoers. That needs all of us to work at inviting friends, neighbors, and acquaintances to our church family!

We had a church table at the China Community Days. Thank you, Lois and Joan, for helping me with that. Also, thank you Lois and Holly for the beautiful items you have been raffling to help with our expenses.

I will be stepping down as Communications & Outreach Elder at the end of December; if anyone is interested in this position (a three-year term), please see me and I will explain what the duties are. It's not all just fundraising - I liked organizing a lot of those, but the position does not call for doing that. Perhaps if you're interested, you could attend a Council meeting prior to 2016 to see what it's all about.

This fall, watch for our annual Dessert Auction in November to fill up your freezer for the holidays! - *In Christ's love, Diane Rawson/ Bernie Welch, Co-chairs*



CAMEROON SCHOOL TUITION

Average student tuition for a **full year** has increased to \$70. There are 19 students who need assistance & we have received about half of the \$1220. Any contribution you can make would be greatly appreciated - please don't feel you have to submit the full \$70 to make a difference! Checks should be made out to South China Community Church with a notation in the memo area specifying it is for Cameroon Tuition.



Worship Committee:

When I learned Pastor Paul was planning to be away for two weeks, I confess I was a bit anxious about how we would provide services during his well-deserved vacation. Of course I should not have worried! The Lord has provided our congregation with such talented and generous people. Many, many thanks go to Ron Maxwell and Jack Kurtzman for organizing and presenting very meaningful messages and services during Pastor Paul's absence.

We now have a small rack located on the sign-up table that holds the most recent DVD recordings of the services. Please feel free to borrow these to view at home or share with a friend. There is a small sign-out pad in the rack, so just jot down your name and which DVDs you have borrowed. Since two services are usually recorded on each DVD, there may be a week or two delay between the service and when the recording is ready to borrow.



Our Committee continues to meet each Wednesday at 9AM, and we welcome anyone interested in attending. Our main work is to choose hymns for the upcoming week; church By-Laws call on the Worship Committee to maintain a list of possible substitute pastors and we will be working on that in the near future. As always, your suggestions and comments are most welcome. - *In Christian Love, Cheryl Baker, Elder of Worship*

Finance & Stewardship:

Expenses: We have spent \$38,301.33 of our budgeted \$63,035 for the year, which is 61% of our budget - only slightly more than our projected expense total (58%) by the end of July, so not a concern.

Revenue: By the end of July, we had brought in \$39,012.32, or 62% of our budgeted income for the year. The recent BBQ and Rummage Sale are not included in this amount, so we are in good shape. Our financial status is mostly due to the monthly Turkey Pie Suppers we've had since May (thank you Glenna, Diane, Theresa, and all who work so hard on those) and the reliable support of you all! Thank you for faithfully honoring your generous pledges (no pun intended!). We have also had a significant memorial donation, which helps offset the amount we borrowed last year to balance our budget. Bank Balances as of 8/15/2015:

Checking	\$5,967.98
Memorial Fund	62,330.71
Faith Ames Music Fund	2,119.47
Meador Family Fund	<u>34,155.28</u>
Total	\$104,573.44

Checkbook (8/7/2015): \$2,235.94

If you would like to see the detailed breakdown of our finances, please contact me. I'd be happy to share that with you. Thanks to Ron Emery and Eddy Nichols for the work they do on a weekly basis to keep the church afloat financially. And thank you for entrusting me with this important job. - Janet Preston, Deacon of Finance

PLEASE REMEMBER:



Family & friends of those who have recently lost loved ones:

- Rosie Feihel (mother-in-law, Clemence)
- Ray Topar (wife, Jean)
- Steve Rawson (mother, Beverly)

Bits of info from GUIDEPOSTS:

<https://www.guideposts.org/brand/someone-cares> inspirational stories & greeting cards

"God gave us only two arms. If we hang onto the past, we can't embrace the future." - Guideposts reader Pauline Stillman, FL

"Grace isn't a little prayer you say before a meal, it's a way to live." - Andie MacDowell, Actress

"Unexpected kindness is the most powerful, most underrated agent of human change. Kindness that catches us by surprise brings out the best in our natures." - Bob Kerrey, former governor of Nebraska & Vietnam War veteran



ON THE LIGHTER SIDE...

A backward poet writes inverse.

Never play cards in the Serengeti. There are too many cheetahs.

I regret not developing my photographic memory.

'Tis better to have loved a short person than never to have loved a tall.

Ancient orators tended to Babylon.

Dishonest golfers don't play the fairway.





- † COMMUNION: SEPT 6 - OCT 4 - NOV 1
- † MEN'S STUDY GROUP - 6:30PM, 2ND & 4TH
TUESDAYS: SEPT 8 & 22 - OCT 13 & 27 - NOV 10 & 24
- † WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP A - 11AM, 2ND & 4TH
WEDNESDAYS: SEPT 9 & 23 - OCT 14 & 28 - NOV 11 & 25
- † WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP B - 6PM, EVERY OTHER SUNDAY: PLEASE CONTACT EMILY SCHROEDER
- † CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS - 6:30PM, 2ND WEDNESDAY: SEPT 9 - OCT 14 - NOV 11
- † AUGUST 29: TURKEY PIE SUPPER, 5-6:30PM
- † AUGUST 30 - SEPT 27 - OCT 25 - NOV 29: SPECIAL CAKES AT FELLOWSHIP TO RECOGNIZE MONTHLY BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES
- † SEPT 13: SUNDAY SCHOOL & ADULT BIBLE STUDY RESUME, 9AM
- † SEPT 13: 100TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION FOR HELEN MOSHER (DURING FELLOWSHIP)
- † NOV 29 (5TH SUNDAY OF THE MONTH): PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND DONATIONS
- † **DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER: NOVEMBER 15, 2015**



**From "Reflections of Autumn"
by Dr. David Jeremiah of
"Turning Point":**

The Unchanging Nature of God. There's a lot of unwelcome change in our world. Moral and societal changes bother us most when we turn on our television or glance at the magazines. We're painfully aware our kids are growing up in a world far different from the one we knew as children.

And personal changes—children leaving home, the passing of dear friends, and the slow, steady decline in our vitality and health. Sometimes we feel outdated at work. But amid all the changes, one thing, one person, never changes—our eternal God. J. I. Packer points out that God does not change. His life is always the same. His character is always dependable. His truth, ways, and purposes do not change. His Son does not change. He's the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

His children will enjoy His fellowship a million years from now. The world may fade, the stars may fall, the seasons may change, and winter may come. But the God who has been our help in ages past is our hope for years to come. In Him we have permanence, stability, joy unshakable, and life unending.

The Wonderful Blessings of God. The autumn of life is a great time to focus on God's wonderful blessings--family, friends, strength, shelter, provision, guidance, care, fruitful ministry, opportunities to serve, more time to pray and study His Word, and eternal life still to come. During life's autumn, we have a richer perspective and can count more blessings than ever before. - Taken from: <http://www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/reflections-of-autumn-and-its-lone-appearance-in-the-bible-11559337.html>



“Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.”
- Joshua 1:9



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