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# SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH



Rev. Paul Harwath, Pastor

November 2015

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## **PASTOR'S MESSAGE**



Advent is already upon us. We will once again sing the "same old hymns." Is it not funny that these same old hymns can still bring tears to our eyes as we sing them new this year? That is because somehow the Spirit of God shines through these old songs. We remember singing them with our grandparents, children, and spouses, some of whom may now be with our Lord. We remember the joy we felt in our youth. Or maybe we are now building those wonderful memories. Whatever the reason, God's love shines through these tunes and are very precious to all of us. Let's help those around us build new memories by loving all those around us. God's love and mine be with all of you this holiday. - *Pastor Paul*



## **CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS**

Council & Committee replacements are needed for Sheldon Goodine (**Building & Grounds**) & Diane Rawson (**Communications & Outreach**), both of whom have served the allowed two three-year terms. Please contact them or Pastor Paul if you're interested in volunteering for these positions and/or have questions.

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

It's hard to believe how the summer has flown and winter is just around the corner! This makes me think of time in general: that it is a gift and we need to appreciate every moment

that we have been given. My "to do" list is out of control. We need to focus on what is really important on our lists and not worry so much about the rest.

The most wonderful season of Christmas will be here soon! Please consider sharing this special time with your church family by gathering for Advent and Christmas Eve Services, as well as attending the soup supper/Christmas play (presented by David Preston) on December 20. Invite your friends and family!



It has been exciting to watch our church family grow and we truly are blessed. May God empower us to spread the Good Word within our community! It has been a real blessing to serve as President and I thank you for this opportunity. - *In Christ's service, Diane Rawson, President*

### **Missions & Benevolence:**

Budget: \$2,450.00  
Revenue: \$610.00  
Expenses: \$1,860.96  
Balance \$1,199.04 (Includes Adopt-a-Platoon)

The Benevolence Fund continues to assist two families (three adults and six children) with monthly food and other perishables. We are within our reduced budget for 2015; however, we still need your continued support with donations of non-perishable foods, juice, paper/plastic products or personal supplies. As requested, the families have been reminded to check with the China Food Pantry for additional assistance throughout the month.

We also appreciate your response to birthday gifts for the children throughout the year. In December, we will be receiving gifts for a boy who will be 16 in January. Again, thanks to those who help us provide the extra monthly

assistance to these families, including those who give cash donations to me or Marge to make purchases for them.



In November, we collected food for Thanksgiving baskets for the families, with the turkeys being provided from Benevolence funds, which you all

participate in through your Sunday offerings. Thanks again to all who responded to our request for donations.

Since November 29th is Advent 1 and our Sanctuary and Memorial Hall will be beautifully decorated, we will be reminded that we are again entering the season when we think of the birth of Christ and how we can help those less fortunate. You have always responded generously to the request for Christmas gifts for our Outreach families and I know you will again this year. Thanks to Marge for her early preparation of the Christmas Giving size list, which you can find in Memorial Hall. Please mark your gifts with the appropriate identification and place them under our Christmas tree by December 20<sup>th</sup>.

As usual, please keep the Homeless Shelter in mind when disposing of good used clothing or household items. In addition, new, wrapped Christmas gifts (labeled as to content or size) would be welcome. I will gladly deliver any donations.

We also appreciate your contributions to the Special Projects, **such as** "Adopt a Platoon." Joan Ferrone has placed a donation can in Memorial Hall and sent a special package of Halloween candy. Holiday cash donations are always appreciated. 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 and **caring and "God Bless."** - *Glenna Jordan, Deacon/Benevolence Chair*



**Building & Grounds:**

Operational Budget: \$6,350.00  
Revenue: \$708.00  
Expenses: \$6,222.14  
Balance: \$835.86

Utilities Budget: \$5,250.00  
Expenses: \$5,430.81  
Balance: (-\$180.81)

As I have served double the time allowed in our church By-Laws, this will be my final entry for the newsletter. But **I'm not going anywhere! I'll still** be on the Building & Grounds Committee to help with any projects the new chair may need.



**One thing that has been on my "to do" list** every year was to build stairs from the parking lot to the lower level park/garden. Now with the help of Carl Schroeder and Ron Wallis, I can report that the stairs are now in place. Some fine tuning is needed to get them in a finished condition. Thanks, guys! ☺

**One more item that I'm working on is to get** air conditioning in the sanctuary. This will be funded from the Meader Family Fund as it was specifically established for Building & Grounds projects. We have some quotes for the project and if approved by the congregation at the Annual Meeting, will be installed next spring.

We have some new energy savings light bulbs for the fans in the sanctuary and hope they will work out satisfactorily.

Thanks to all who have helped and supported me during the last 12 years as Chair of the Building & Grounds Committee. It has not been hard work, but rather a labor of love.

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

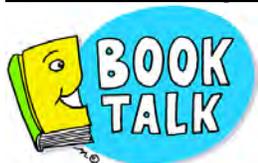


**Christian Education:**

Budget: \$150.00  
Revenue: \$135.26  
Expenses: \$11.62  
Balance: \$273.64

Pastor Paul is checking prices for home school material; he currently has three little ones in class. Lindsey & Luke (Harwath) would like to participate in a home schooling Sunday school program. - *In His name, Joan Ferrone, Christian Education Chair*

**Women's Study Group:**



This is an informal group (seven when all are able to attend) which meets at 11:00 AM on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month in each other's

homes. We're continuing our study on "All the Women of the Bible." If you're interested in joining us, please give me a call at 445-3118 or e-mail me at [joanjim@fairpoint.net](mailto:joanjim@fairpoint.net)  
*Blessings, Joan Ferrone*

**Adopt a Platoon:**

Two containers of candy were sent for Halloween; a check will be sent for Christmas. Most of all, we send our love and support.

**Shawl Project:**

Many shawls were recently delivered to the hospital. Rev. David Gant is most appreciative, as are the recipients. Thanks to all of you who participate. Call me if you have any questions @ 445-3118. - *Joan Ferrone*



**Communications & Outreach:**

Budget: \$700.00  
Revenue: \$0.00  
Expenses \$668.84  
Balance \$31.16

My term will be up the end of December and I do believe there is a replacement person in

sight! I have served six years in this capacity, but will gladly continue to help where needed.

It has been a very busy year with fundraisers, activities and get-togethers. I want to thank my "team" for all the work they do: Glenna Jordan with updating flock lists, Jayne Winters with the newsletter, Lisa Montagna with the website, Joyce Goodine with advertisements and shopping, Bernie Welch who helped when I was in Florida, Beth Preston with Facebook and advertising, and any others who I may have missed!

I'm hoping we can resurrect the "Growth Committee" after the New Year as there were some great ideas floating around, but the decision will be that of the person who takes my place on the Council.

Remember, Communications & Outreach is really a task for all of us as we reach out to others around us and invite them to our church. Thank you for the opportunity to have served you. - *In Christ's love, Diane Rawson, Chair*



**Worship Committee:**

Budget: \$500.00  
Revenue \$241.00  
Expenses \$222.73  
Balance \$518.27

At the end of this year, I will be making a new schedule for pre-offertory scripture readers. Please let me know if you wish to be added to the list (hopefully many in this category) or removed from the list (hopefully not too many in this category). We also need greeters each week; please consider signing up to cover a Sunday. **It's OK if you do not want to also take the collection** - we can find others to do that.

I've recently ordered a few supplies for our Christmas Eve service; we will have mostly new candles and bobeches (drip guard around the candle - a new word for me - just had to use it).

It's been almost a year since I became Chair of the Worship Committee. I was initially reluctant to accept the position and had many doubts about my ability to serve well. There have been a few challenges, a few moments of panic. However, with total sincerity I can say I am very glad that I accepted this opportunity. Serving this church has led to personal growth, a greater sense of connection and a deep satisfaction that I am in a small way **helping to do God's work. So please consider serving in a leadership role in our church.** There are opportunities for 2016 and coming years. You will receive much more back than you give! - *In Christian Love, Cheryl Baker, Elder of Worship*

**Finance & Stewardship:**

**Expenses:** As of the end of October, we had spent \$54,507.48 of our budgeted \$63,035 for the year. This is 86% of our budget, only slightly more than our projection of 83% for this time, so not a concern. We are pretty much on target, even though we have overspent in Operations (~\$200 in office supplies, Utilities (~\$370 for propane), Communication & Outreach (~\$100 for advertising), and Fundraising (~\$1000 for turkey pie suppers and chicken BBQ).

**Revenue:** We have brought in \$51,653.06, or 83% of our budgeted income for the year. Our pledge income exceeds our projected amount for October by about \$2000. Thank you for that! Our revenue in the areas of fundraising, pledges, and operations are pretty much on target with our projections. The



dessert auction brought in \$500, (about \$200 more than budgeted) and what fun it was! Thank you all for your donations of yummy baked goods.

**Bank Balances as of 10/31/2015:**

Bank Statement Balance	\$ 7,061.92
Checkbook	5,505.82
Memorial Fund	62,362.47
Faith Ames Music Fund	2,119.74
Meader Family Fund	34,172.68

If you would like to see the detailed breakdown of our finances, please contact me. I would be happy to share that with you.

I would like to thank Ron Emery and Eddy Nichols for the work they do on a weekly basis of counting our incoming contributions and paying the bills! Thank you for entrusting me with this important job. - *Finance Chair, Janet Preston*

**CONDOLENCES** to the families of those in our church who have recently passed into **God's hands.** They will be greatly missed:



Jean Topar  
Beverly Rawson  
Maggie Wallis  
Bernadette Shields

**Celebrating The Thanksgiving Holiday:  
What the Bible Says**

By Betty Miller

The first American Thanksgiving was celebrated less than a year after the Christian Plymouth colonists had settled in the new land of America. The first Thanksgiving Day, set aside for the special purpose of prayer as well as celebration, was decreed by Governor William Bradford on July 30, 1623. There were harvest festivals, or days of thanking God for plentiful crops. During the Revolutionary War, eight special days of thanks were observed for victories and for being saved from dangers. On November 26, 1789, President George Washington issued a general proclamation for a day of thanks. Our national day of thanksgiving was proclaimed by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863 with these words, "a day of Thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father."

Thanksgiving Season is approaching and traditionally it is a time for all of us to reflect on the things for which we are to give thanks to God. Since so many **of God's people are going through major trials** in their lives, many find it difficult to be thankful. When we do face difficulties that is the time we need to be more thankful than ever, as the Lord has promised us that He will be in our midst to help us overcome

every trial and evil thing. Evil things do not come from God. When we are experiencing bad things, we need to thank the Lord that He is there to help us to overcome them. The scripture tells us that in everything we are to be thankful.

**1 Thessalonians 5:18** "In every thing give us thanks for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."

This scripture does not mean that the problems we are experiencing are the will of God for our lives, but rather, being thankful in the midst of our trial is the will of God. We are not thanking God for the attacks of the enemy that bring sickness, poverty, fear and a host of other tribulations, but rather we are thanking God that He is still God and is with us to see us through those tribulations. We are not to allow the enemy to rob us of a thankful spirit and a spirit of joy while we are experiencing challenging and bad circumstances. There is only one way that we can have a joyful heart during our trials and that is to allow the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His faith, hope and love.

**John 16:33** "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."

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<http://bibleresources.org/thanksgiving-holiday>

### ON THE LIGHTER SIDE:

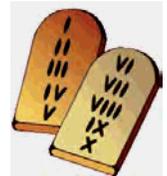


What are the rules in zebra baseball?  
*Three stripes and you're out*

Where does a baseball player go when he needs a new uniform?  
*New Jersey*



### TEN COMMANDMENTS OF HUMAN RELATIONS:



1. *Speak to people.* There's nothing as nice as a cheerful word of greeting.
2. *Smile at people.* It takes 72 muscles to frown, but only 14 to smile.
3. *Call people by name.* The sweetest music to anyone's ears is the sound of his/her own name.
4. *Be friendly & helpful.* If you want friends, you must be one.
5. *Be cordial.* Speak & act as if everything you do is a joy to you.
6. *Be genuinely interested in people.* You can like almost everyone if you try.
7. *Be generous with praise & cautious with criticism.*
8. *Be considerate with the feelings of others.* There are usually three sides to a controversy: yours, the other person's & the right side.
9. *Be eager to lend a helping hand.* Often it is appreciated more than you know. What counts most in life is what we do for others.
10. *Add to this a good sense of humor, a huge dose of patience & a dash of humility.* This combination will open many doors & the rewards will be enormous.

### Bits of info from GUIDEPOSTS:

<https://www.guideposts.org/caring>

Practical advice and inspiring stories if you or someone you know cares for an aging relative

Slide show for 5 ways to put more gratitude in your attitude:

<https://www.guideposts.org/gratitude>

[www.guideposts.org/breath-prayers](http://www.guideposts.org/breath-prayers) for quick, powerful prayers

"We do not need to see eye to eye to walk arm in arm." – Guideposts reader Carolee Stevens, San Diego, CA





- † COMMUNION: DEC 13 - JAN 3 - FEB 7
- † MEN'S STUDY GROUP - 6:30PM, 2<sup>ND</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup>  
TUESDAYS: DEC 8 & 22 - JAN 12 & 26 - FEB 9 & 23
- † WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP A - 11AM, 2<sup>ND</sup> & 4<sup>TH</sup>  
WEDNESDAYS: DEC 9 & 23 (TENTATIVE) - JAN 13 & 27 - FEB 10 & 24
- † WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP B - 6PM, EVERY OTHER  
SUNDAY: PLEASE CONTACT EMILY SCHROEDER
- † CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS - 6:30PM, 2<sup>ND</sup>  
WEDNESDAY: DEC 9 - JAN 13 - FEB 10
- † NOV 22 - NOV 29 - DEC 6 - DEC 13: CHRISTMAS  
PLAY REHEARSAL, 5PM
- † NOV 25: THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE, 6PM
- † NOV 28: CHRISTMAS DECORATING & HANGING  
OF THE GREENS, 10AM WITH PIZZA LUNCH
- † NOV 29: ADVENT I  
DEC 6: ADVENT II  
DEC 13: ADVENT III  
DEC 20: ADVENT IV
- † NOV 29 - DEC 27 - JAN 31: SPECIAL CAKES AT  
FELLOWSHIP TO RECOGNIZE MONTHLY  
BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES
- † NOV 29 & JAN 31 (5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF THE MONTH):  
PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND DONATIONS
- † DECEMBER 13: RECOGNITION OF NEW MEMBERS  
(TENTATIVE)
- † DECEMBER 20: CHRISTMAS PLAY & SOUP  
SUPPER, 6PM

- † DECEMBER 24: CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, 7PM
- † DECEMBER 25: CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE, 9AM
- † **DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER: FEBRUARY  
14, 2016**



### **Christmas & Advent Reflections**

(From <http://www.appleseeds.org/Christmas-quotes.htm>)

**Definition of Advent** - Advent is the period beginning four Sundays before Christmas and observed by some Christians as a season of prayer and fasting. The word "Advent" is derived from the Medieval Latin "adventus" from the Latin word meaning "arrival."

### **Memory Awakens Hope**

Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, *Seek That Which Is Above*, 1986

"Advent is concerned with that very connection between memory and hope which is so necessary to man. Advent's intention is to awaken the most profound and basic emotional memory within us, namely, the memory of the God who became a child. This is a healing memory; it brings hope. The purpose of the Church's year is continually to rehearse her great history of memories, to awaken the heart's memory so that it can discern the star of hope...."

It is the beautiful task of Advent to awaken in all of us memories of goodness and thus to open doors of hope."

### **Life Is an Advent Season**

CONNECTIONS, 11-28-93

"Life is a constant Advent season: we are continually waiting to become, to discover, to complete, to fulfill. Hope, struggle, fear,

expectation and fulfillment are all part of our Advent experience.

The world is not as just, not as loving, not as whole as we know it can and should be. But the coming of Christ and His presence among us—as one of us—give us reason to live in hope: that light will shatter the darkness, that we can be liberated from our fears and prejudices, that we are never alone or abandoned.

May this Advent season be a time for bringing hope, transformation and fulfillment into the Advent of our lives."

### **Take Time to be Aware**

Edward Hays, *A Pilgrim's Almanac*, p. 196

"Take time to be aware that in the very midst of our busy preparations for the celebration of **Christ's birth in ancient Bethlehem, Christ is reborn in the Bethlehems of our homes and daily lives.** Take time, slow down, be still, be awake to the Divine Mystery that looks so common and so ordinary yet is wondrously present.

**An old abbot was fond of saying, 'The devil is always the most active on the highest feast days.'**

The supreme trick of Old Scratch is to have us so busy decorating, preparing food, practicing music and cleaning in preparation for the feast of Christmas that we actually miss the coming of Christ. Hurt feelings, anger, impatience, injured egos—the list of clouds that busyness creates to blind us to the birth can be long, but it is familiar to us all."

### **Christmas**

William Cullen Bryant

"O Father may that Holy Star  
Grow every year more bright,  
And send its glorious beams afar  
To fill the world with light."



### **A FAMILY'S REFLECTIONS:**

*Our dishes went unwashed today  
No one made the beds;  
We took charge of the important needs  
And went to church instead.*

*O sure, we went adventuring  
The children, Dad and I,  
And there explored the truths of God  
That no one can deny.*

*Our house may seem neglected  
The lawn awaits more care,  
But in a hundred years or so  
No one will know or care.*

*But our children learned today,  
To find God's way to live.  
We even brought home joy for all  
And we learned how to give.*

*It's not so easy just to stop  
And always put God first,  
But leaving Him in second place  
Has got to be the worst.*

*We're glad we took the time for church,  
For learning from God's Word.  
We've found that blest assurance  
That nowhere else is heard.*

*So we'll be going back next week,  
But in the days between  
Our family will be happier  
Because God's grace we've seen.*

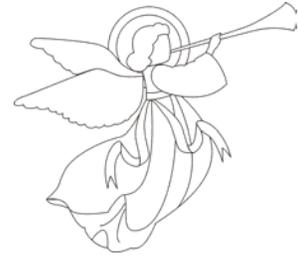
*Tonight as we climb into beds,  
Unmade from early morn,  
We know release, great joy and peace  
Not wearied or forlorn.*

*For God gives to the ones who'll stop  
And grant Him proper place,  
The wonders of redeeming love  
That transforms a home with grace.*

- Mom

*“Speaking to one another in psalms  
and hymns and spiritual songs,  
singing and making melody with  
your heart to the Lord”*

*- Ephesians 5:19*



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