
SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH



Rev. Paul Harwath, Pastor

February 2016

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Our Church Family needs to be a destination where all members feel love & a sense of belonging. Just as Jesus desired to gather together Jerusalem's children, just as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, so our church needs to make sure that all members feel safe & secure. Author Karoline M. Lewis writes, "Communities of love and belonging are beautiful yet rare; necessary, yet elusive; desired, yet seem always met with stipulations. Communities of love and belonging are those places and spaces of gathered folks that give you life, that nourish your soul, that remind you of who you truly are. Because there is no love and belonging when there is no regard and respect."



There is no love & belonging when you are overlooked & dismissed. There is no love & belonging when you are told you don't measure up, don't meet expectations, or that you are not enough. We are very blessed to have a congregation that celebrates our differences. As a pastor, I wanted to be part of a congregation that held each member's

beliefs as something very special & part of the body of Christ. I am so glad I found one. – *God's love and mine, Pastor Paul*



CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

President's Report:

It's hard to believe that a year has gone by since I first held this position. I have been nominated & elected once again as church President & look forward to serving.

I would like to thank Diane for her years of service as Communications & Outreach Deacon & for her leadership as church President; job well done! I would also like to thank Sheldon Goodine for all of his years of service. He has kept the church up & running, handling a lot of problems & finding ways to organize the church's supplies.

I would like to welcome **Ron Maxwell** as the new Buildings & Grounds Elder, as well as Council Vice-President. Ron & I have worked together in the past & I have to say that we work very well together. I would also like to welcome **Debbie Stowe** as the new Communications & Outreach Deacon. I am looking forward to working with them & the other Council members once again.

I learned a lot about our church & its workings while previously serving as President. I would like to thank everyone for giving me that opportunity & for being so supportive in helping me fulfill my duties. I thank everyone once again for having faith in me to assume this position & pray your support will continue into the future. I thank God for all of His continued blessings upon me, us, & His church!

May God bless the leadership & guide us to building the church with, "Your will be done, not mine." As always, with God's will, the church & the people within it will continue to grow & prosper. Our God is an awesome God. He will lead us through anything. All we have to do is remember to ask. - *In Christian Love, Paula Kimball-Vigue, President*



Missions & Benevolence:

Budget: \$2,550.00
Expenses: \$154.53
Income: \$0.00
Balance \$2,395.47

If you have read the church bulletins throughout the year & the January 31, 2016 Annual Report for the year 2015, there isn't much I can add. The summary in the Annual Report reflected the willingness of this congregation to support the efforts of this committee in helping those less fortunate within our community.

A special thank you to those who generously responded to Pastor Paul's January 31st PDF appeal for donations for a local woman who had lost her job & needed help with her rent.

Thanks also to **Lois Rogers** for volunteering to become a member of the Benevolence Committee & share in our decision-making. There is always room for new ideas, so feel free to join us.



The Benevolence Committee will hold a meeting at the church on **Tuesday, February 23 at 9:30 AM**, at which time we will discuss how services can be improved for the families we have been assisting through other available programs. You will be notified through the weekly bulletin of any changes in our program. Thanks for your sharing & caring & "God Bless." - *Glenna Jordan, Deacon/ Benevolence Chair*

Building & Grounds:

Operational Budget: \$8,080.00
Expenses: \$1,460.11
Income: \$104.25
Balance: \$6,724.14

Utilities Budget: \$5,250.00
Expenses: \$385.50
Balance: 4,864.50

As new Deacon/Elder of the Buildings & Grounds Committee, I want to start by saying thank you for the opportunity to serve. And also, thank you for your patience.

You will see things being done around the building: changes that are evidence of the new. I am fortunate that Sheldon took care of the big needs & I have the joy to start taking care of the little details here & there. I

appreciate your patience & feedback as things start to progress; if there is anything you wish to volunteer to do, I will gladly take down your name & talent(s)!

We will soon have a Committee meeting; all are welcome to attend when it is announced. Also, if there is anything you would like to ask the Committee or me to look into (like those cracks in the plaster behind the front door), please feel free to drop me a line on e-mail or see me at coffee hour on Sunday.

To finish for now, I need to make a small request: Would everyone who has a key to the building touch base with me at 458-3751 or room21@outlook.com or on Sunday during coffee hour & tell me how many keys you have? Many thanks - *Ron Maxwell, Chair*



Christian Education:

Budget: \$50.00
Expenses: \$0
Income: \$186.45
Balance: \$236.45

After being approached several times & really praying about it, I was led to take over the position of Christian Education Chair. I do not feel that I am worthy of the role, but will do my best. Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to work with our youth. I will be looking for help from several people & from God above.

Beth Preston has agreed to be a Committee member, which is greatly appreciated. Janet Preston has already been helping by showing me the Sunday School curriculum; I am reviewing/studying it. I will also be working closely with Pastor Paul & anyone else willing to join the Christian Education group.



Going forward, I would like to start Sunday school again beginning the first Sunday in March. I am currently looking for teachers (older students) who would be willing to teach the younger children

on a rotating basis (once per month). Beth and/or myself will be there each week & will prepare for each Sunday's class ahead of time.

When Joan Ferrone assumed the Education position last year, she discovered that the curriculum CDs were missing. I have searched the rooms & library, but have found nothing. I am in the process of trying to find replacements, but so far have come up empty on eBay & have only found one out of the twelve CDs on Amazon, which I have purchased. If you have any idea of where the "One Room Sunday School" CDs may be located, please let me know. If they can't be replaced, I will be looking for someone to play the music to go with the songs. It is my hope that the students will be able to sing during one of the spring services.

The academic/craft rooms downstairs need re-organizing. I'm going to spend some time over February vacation cleaning up, but request that if anyone uses the rooms, please leave them in the condition in which they were found. Beth & I will not have the time to clean up each week before Sunday school. Thank you.



May God provide me with the wisdom, strength, & patience to fulfill this position. May He also allow the children to gain knowledge, learn the teachings provided, & grow up to spread the love & truth taught by Jesus Christ. - *In Christian Love, Paula Kimball-Vigue Christian Education Elder*

Communications & Outreach:

Budget: \$750.00
Expenses \$0.00
Balance \$750.00

Diane noted at the February Council Meeting that she often takes large volume projects to Staples for printing & copying instead of using the church copier; her request for a 2016 budget increase was approved at the Annual Meeting.

Please note that this newsletter includes the Easter envelopes & therefore will not be e-mailed for distribution.



Beth Preston will be helping me plan an Easter event for children in the community on March 19th. - *Debbie Stowe, Chair*

Worship Committee:

Budget: \$500.00
Expenses: \$42.00
Income: \$60.00
Balance: \$518.00

I am now beginning my second year as Elder of Worship. The first year went so quickly! I learned a lot during that year about many aspects of our services & am continuing to learn. I have mentioned several times that we record services so that DVDs can be shared with those not able to attend, or those wishing to take another look. We are not currently able to record & have missed a number of Sunday services. Our DVD recorder is not working & needs to be replaced; I will look into the cost. If anyone is blessed with an understanding of recording equipment (which I am not), please feel free to offer guidance to me.

We need people each week to serve as greeters. It is so helpful if you can sign up in advance; the sign-up sheet is located on the "paperwork table" in the fellowship room. If you would like to greet but do not want to take the collection, do not be concerned - just make your wishes known to the Elder/Deacon of the month (or me) & provision can be made for someone else to do the collection.

During this past year, I confess I have been blissfully unconcerned about flowers for the sanctuary. It seemed that beautiful arrangements just appeared! Very fortunately for us, others have been more attentive to the provision of flowers. Many thanks go to Marge Kurtzman for providing them on so many occasions, & many thanks to all who have provided flowers &



plants. They enhance the beauty of our sanctuary & are enjoyed very much by all.

I hope you will always feel comfortable passing along to me your comments, suggestions or complaints about our worship services. - *In Christian Love, Cheryl Baker, Elder of Worship*



Finance & Stewardship:

There is not much to report yet, as it is still early in the year. I opened up last year's February report & found this sentence in the first paragraph: "Our biggest expense so far this year is sanding and SNOW PLOWING!" We are fortunate that this year did not begin with a similar financial burden.

Another plus is that our income from pledges & loose offerings exceeded our projection for January. You continue to go above & beyond when it comes to the needs of the church, its members, & our community. I feel truly blessed to be part of such a wonderful, compassionate, and generous church family.

Balances as of 1/31/2016:

Checkbook	2,526.05
Memorial Fund	62,834.72
Faith Ames Music Fund	2,120.00
Meador Trust	34,185.59
Total	\$101,666.36

Thank you, as always, for your support. – *Respectfully, Finance Chair, Janet Preston*

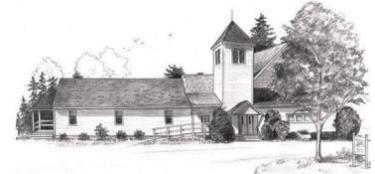


DEEPEST SYMPATHY to the family & friends of **Richard Dowe**, who recently passed into God's hands. Richard was a long-time SCCC member.



REFLECTIONS & PREDICTIONS
PART I

Our present church building dates from the brick Baptist Meeting House, which was built in 1827 & sold at auction in 1856. A larger, wooden building was erected in 1862, but burned in 1869. On October 27, 1884, the Baptist Church transferred the site to the Society of Friends with the condition they build a house of worship & thus, the present building, known as the Friends Meeting House, was erected. In 1935, it became the South China Community Fellowship Church; the annex was built in 1956.



Some of the early pastors were Harold Tollefson (1930-1936), Thomas Griffiths (1937-1962), Reverend Dr. David Van Strein for the next 18 years (1962-1980), Robert Hotelling for 18 months, & Harvey Ammerman, nephew of Reverend Dr. David Van Strein.

No one here in South China Community Church remembers when Rufus Jones preached here. Very few of us remember when his daughter, Mary Hoxie Jones, worshipped with us every summer. Few remember Roy & Hazel Grindle, who led the Sunday School for over 20 years. Roy, along with Fred Fitzgerald, also built the fireplace. During this period, there were over 80 students in Sunday School. Just a few of us remember when we had 18 voices in the choir, led by Donald Pauley. Glenna Jordan & Theresa Plaisted are the last surviving members of that choir. Only a few of us remember Dr. David Van Strein, who was a blessing to our congregation. Dr. David performed baptisms & marriages for a lot of our children. All four of my children attended church every Sunday, as did the children of the Pauleys, Farringtons, Poulins, Caseys, Jordans, Doves, & many others.

What happened? Where are they now?
To be continued....

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

**Editor's Note: Our church web site will include more detailed historical information soon. This has been a major "work in progress."*



WASH DAY (Author Unknown)

- Submitted by Sheldon Goodine

Monday – Wash Day

Lord, help me wash away all my selfishness & vanity so I may serve you with perfect humility through the week ahead.

Tuesday – Ironing Day

Dear Lord, help me iron out all the wrinkles of prejudice I have collected through the years so that I may see the beauty in others.

Wednesday – Mending Day

O God, help me mend my ways so I will not set a bad example for others.

Thursday – Cleaning Day

Lord Jesus, help me to dust out all the many faults I have been hiding in the secret corners of my heart.

Friday – Shopping Day

O God, give me the grace to shop wisely, so I may return home with happiness in my heart & a desire to help others.

Saturday – Cooking Day

Help me, My Savior, to brew a big kettle of brotherly love & serve it with the clean, sweet bread of human kindness.

Sunday – THE LORD'S DAY

O God, I have prepared my house for you. Please come into my heart as my honored guest so I may spend the day & the rest of my life in Your presence.



LENT is the Christian season of preparation before Easter, a time when many Christians observe a period of fasting, repentance, moderation, self-denial and spiritual discipline.

The purpose is to set aside time for reflection on Jesus Christ - his suffering and his sacrifice, his life, death, burial and resurrection.

During the six weeks of self-examination and reflection, Christians who observe Lent typically make a commitment to fast, or to give up something: a habit, such as smoking, watching TV, or swearing, or a food or drink, such as sweets, chocolate or coffee.

Some Christians also take on a Lenten discipline, such as reading the Bible and spending more time in prayer to draw nearer to God.

Strict observers do not eat meat on Fridays, having fish instead. The goal is to strengthen the faith and spiritual disciplines of the observer, and to develop a closer relationship with God

ASH WEDNESDAY marks the start of the Lenten season, which begins 40 days prior to Easter (technically 46, as Sundays are not included in the count). The significance of the 40-day period is based on two episodes of spiritual testing in the Bible: the 40 years of wilderness wandering by the Israelites and the Temptation of Jesus after he spent 40 days fasting in the wilderness.

The ashes are made by burning the blessed palms that were distributed the previous year on Palm Sunday; the pastor dips his right thumb in the ashes and, making the Sign of the Cross on each person's forehead, says, "Remember, man, that thou art dust, and to dust thou shalt return" (or a variation on those words). The distribution of ashes reminds us of our own mortality and sinfulness and calls us to repentance.



On **PALM SUNDAY**, Christians celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem the week before his death and resurrection. For many Christian churches, Palm Sunday, often referred to as "Passion Sunday," marks the beginning of Holy Week, which concludes on Easter Sunday. Jesus traveled to Jerusalem knowing that this journey would end in his sacrificial death on the cross for the sins of all mankind.

MAUNDY THURSDAY is observed during Holy Week on the Thursday before Easter and commemorates the Last Supper when Jesus shared the Passover meal with his disciples on the night before he was crucified. In contrast to joyful Easter celebrations when Christians worship their resurrected Savior, Maundy Thursday services are typically more solemn occasions, marked by the shadow of Jesus' betrayal. Derived from the Latin word *mandatum* ("commandment"), *Maundy* refers to the commands Jesus gave his disciples at the Last Supper: to love with humility by serving one another and to remember his sacrifice.



GOOD FRIDAY is always observed on the Friday before Easter Sunday. On this day, Christians commemorate the passion, or suffering, and death on the cross of the Lord, Jesus Christ. Many Christians spend this day in fasting, prayer, repentance, and meditation on the agony and suffering of Christ on the cross.

On **EASTER SUNDAY**, Christians celebrate the resurrection of the Lord, Jesus Christ. According to Scripture, Jesus came back to life, or was raised from the dead, three days after his death on the cross. Through his death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus paid the penalty for sin, thus purchasing for all who believe in him, eternal life in Christ Jesus.



(Taken from: <http://christianity.about.com>)



ON THE LIGHTER SIDE:

What happened to the Easter Bunny when he misbehaved at school? **He was eggspelled**

What day does an Easter egg hate the most?
Fry-days

What do you call a rabbit with fleas? **Bugs Bunny**

Why couldn't the Easter egg family watch TV?
Because their cable was scrambled

What do you get when you cross a rabbit's foot with poison ivy? **A rash of good luck**

Where does the Easter bunny eat breakfast?
At I-hop

How did the soggy Easter Bunny dry himself?
With a hare dryer

What kind of jewelry do rabbits wear?
14 carrot gold

What's long and stylish and full of cats?
The Easter Purr-ade

What is the Easter Bunny's favourite state capital?
Albunny, New York

What do you call an egg from outer space?
An "Egg-stra terrestrial"

Who is the Easter Bunny's favorite movie actor?
Rabbit De Niro

Where does the Easter Bunny study medicine?
John HOPkins



Easter Vigil

A parishioner was in front of me coming out of church one day and the preacher was standing at the door as he always is, to shake hands. He grabbed the parishioner by the hand and pulled him aside.

The Pastor said to him, "You need to join the Army of the Lord!"

The parishioner replied, "I'm already in the Army of the Lord, Pastor."

Pastor questioned, "How come I don't see you except at Christmas and Easter?"



He whispered back, "I'm in the secret service."



Ideas for Hymns (Author Unknown) - Submitted by Carl Schroeder

Dentist: Crown Him with Many Crowns
Weatherman: There Shall Be Showers of Blessings
Contractor: The Church's One Foundation
Taylor: Holy, Holy, Holy
Golfer: There's A Green Hill Far Away
Politician: Standing on the Promises
Optometrist: Open My Eyes That I Might See
IRS Agent: I Surrender All
Gossip: Pass It On
Electrician: Send The Light
Shopper: Sweet Bye & Bye
Realtor: I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop
Massage Therapist: He Touched Me
Doctor: The Great Physician

And for those who speed on the highway:
~45mph: God Will Take Care of You
~65 mph: Nearer My God to Thee
~85 mph: This World Is Not My Home
~95 mph: Lord, I'm Coming Home
~100 mph: Precious Memories



- ✝ COMMUNION: MARCH 6 - APRIL 3 - MAY 1
- ✝ MEN'S STUDY GROUP - 6:30PM, 2ND & 4TH
TUESDAYS: MARCH 8 & 22 - APRIL 12 & 26 -
MAY 10 & 24
- ✝ WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP A - 11AM, 2ND & 4TH
WEDNESDAYS: MARCH 9 & 23 - APRIL 13 & 27
- MAY 11 & 25
- ✝ WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP B - 6PM, EVERY OTHER
SUNDAY: PLEASE CONTACT EMILY SCHROEDER
- ✝ CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS - 6:30PM, 2ND
WEDNESDAY: MARCH 9 - APRIL 13 - MAY 11
- ✝ MARCH 27 - APRIL 24 - MAY 29: SPECIAL CAKES
AT FELLOWSHIP TO RECOGNIZE MONTHLY
BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES
- ✝ MARCH 19: EASTER EVENT FOR CHILDREN
- ✝ MARCH 20: PALM SUNDAY
- ✝ MARCH 24: MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE, 7PM
- ✝ MARCH 25: GOOD FRIDAY, STATIONS OF THE
CROSS, 6PM
- ✝ MARCH 27: EASTER SUNDAY
- ✝ MAY 29: PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND
DONATIONS
- ✝ **DEADLINE FOR NEXT NEWSLETTER: MAY 15,
2016**



Holy Week

“He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed.”

- 1 Peter 2:24 (NIV)

*He is
Risen!*

*South China Community Church
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