
SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH



Rev. Paul Harwath, Pastor

November 2016

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

I read an article by John Foley, S.J. that I just loved, so I thought I would paraphrase much of it to kick off this Advent season.

Have you ever been in line when no one is in a hurry? When everyone is enjoying one another's company? Everyone is laughing & telling stories? If someone needs to butt in line, not a soul cares in the least? That almost never happens, but it should.

What does this have to do with Advent? Well, let's look at it: in Advent, we, too, wait. Jesus is to be born; in fact, we have experienced Him many times each time we come to worship Him. We join each other not in line waiting, but around the peace & goodness that the birth of Jesus will bring to our hearts & our relationships. We will line up together at this Sunday's worship & God will turn our waiting into a social, prayerful event.



Ordinarily we do not like to be delayed. Think of traffic jams, lines at the grocery store, etc. We project our minds forward to the many things we have on our list

besides wasting time. But can there really be nothing to interest us as we wait in mundane situations? Is there anything we can open to when traffic is creeping along at 6mph or we're at the shopping center waiting to return a purchase that went bad? **Yes.**

If we come to our senses, we can make it worth our while to wait. In the present moment, as you read these words, hundreds

of real & God-filled objects are all about you. Did you ever really feel the texture of the steering wheel you grasp every day? How about letting in the colors of the trees? The people in other cars — visible to you at 6mph speed? If you stay in the present instead of mainly the future or the past, you will find subtle & obvious beauty all about you. Your goal will arrive when its time comes. Meanwhile, the present tense is still happening. Advent is like this.

A time to pull in our scope a bit & realize that emptiness is a healthy & normal part of our lives. We are continually refilled if we let ourselves be. Strange to say, waiting for fulfillment is also itself a fulfillment. It lets us be what we are: not God, but human. Even in these troubled times. - *Much Love, Pastor Paul*



CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

President's Report:

"To do righteousness and justice is desired by the LORD more than sacrifice." Proverbs 21:3

Many changes & events have happened, are happening, & there will be more to come. The Council meets monthly to discuss the finances, fundraising events, education, missions & benevolence, worship & maintenance of the church.

Our summer friends have gone south; others have relocated. Some friends are now in God's Kingdom. In a continued effort to get the word

out a little more about our church, what it has to offer, & to bring in more friends & family, we are still looking to schedule events like Pastor Paul's bow-making class. If you have any ideas about skills you (or someone else) could teach some night or additional fundraising ideas, please speak to someone on the Council or attend one of our meetings. They are held the second Wednesday of every month & begin at 6:30 PM.

The position of Finance Chair will be opening soon. If you feel called to fill this position, please see Janet Preston or myself.

1 Corinthians 12:12-31

For even as the body is one and yet has many members, and all the members of the body, though they are many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many. - *In Christian Love, Paula Kimball-Vigue, President*



Missions & Benevolence:

Budget: \$2,550
Expenses: \$1,631.65
Balance \$918.35

Even though we are not distributing food to the two families we previously assisted, we voted to again provide funds to help with school clothes for the children. Thanks to the cash donations of \$230 received (that did not go through the Church books) & the \$400 used from the Benevolence Fund, we were able to give \$220 to the boy in Family #1 & \$410 to Family #2.

When the grandmother of Family #2 came to pick up the clothing gift cards, I learned they had more health problems & a funds shortage due to not being able to work. Because of this situation, I gave them the emergency food from our July drive, which depleted our emergency container. Food had been slow in coming in, so Marge & Jack provided candy for a "Bring a Can of Food for Candy Sunday" on October 30th. This was a huge success & the bin is again full!

Lois Rogers, who is a new member of the Benevolence Committee, also volunteers at the China Food Pantry & brought to our attention that the Pantry needed assistance with financing the 70+ Thanksgiving baskets being distributed. Lois received \$80 in cash donations & \$100 was used from the Benevolence Fund. The Church received a letter of thanks from Lee & Ann Austin, Directors of the China Food Pantry.

The following is not a Benevolence undertaking, but since I have agreed to chair the event, I just want to call your attention to the Free Community Thanksgiving dinner on November 23rd at 12 noon. We are preparing to serve 100 people & are grateful for the anonymous donor who is providing the funds for this dinner; I certainly appreciate the overwhelming response from the congregation volunteers to work in preparing & serving this meal. If you know of any local families in need, or just someone alone for the holiday, please let them know about the dinner.

The year is rushing by & as we have done for several Advent seasons, we will be accepting Christmas gifts for the two families. I am awaiting updated sizes so Marge & Jack can prepare the chart. Also, now that Pastor Paul is a representative for the Salvation Army, we may get local referrals from them. Thanks again for your sharing & caring & "God Bless."
- *Glenna Jordan, Deacon/Benevolence Chair*



Building & Grounds:

Operational Budget: \$8,080

Expenses: \$5,697.98

Income: \$1,119.25

Balance: \$3,501.27

Utilities Budget: \$5,250

Expenses: \$3,551.21

Balance: \$1,698.79



Buildings & Grounds has been a real blessing in the last weeks: the church family has made things happen!! A work day was held & the grounds look great - many thanks to all who helped.

The second bathroom has had an electrical issue, so Jack Shields, Sheldon Goodine & I have ganged up on the problem & it is solved, thanks to some timely intervention from Findley Electric. At the time of this writing you will find spots on the walls where patches cover... but soon they will be painted & will be pretty again. - Ron Maxwell, Chair

Christian Education:

Budget: \$50

Expenses: \$0

Income: \$186.45

Balance: \$236.45

"Teach me Your way, O Lord; lead me in a straight path..." Psalm 27: 11

Sunday School started up again in September & we have had an average of seven children each week; the highest number reached was ten. I have been blessed to have Lydia Biswell join me downstairs for Sunday School & child care. With the numbers of children & extra help, our children will be able to perform a song before the end of the year. Praise God!

Some of the supplies I had requested have been brought in. Additional items such as Expo markers, Expo erasers, construction paper, etc. are still needed, but should be bought before the end of the month. I have yet to finish the organization of the Sunday School

spaces. It may be next summer before this undertaking is complete. Overall, it has been a blessing to work with God's children. I have learned more in the process as well. For all of this, I am truly grateful.

Proverbs 22:6 "Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." - *In Christian Love, Paula Kimball-Vigue, Elder of Christian Education*



Communications & Outreach:

Budget: \$750.00

Expenses \$1,022.40

Income: \$266.60

Balance: **(\$5.80)**

We have been blessed with generous people in our church. I need to thank everyone who has given of their time & talents; with everyone pitching in, we have had a lot going on this year.

The Halloween party was definitely a success, with many young children & parents attending. We will soon have a special fellowship time with our first community Thanksgiving dinner, followed by the Christmas play on December 18. I feel that half the fun is getting ready for events.

I would like to put out an appeal for anyone interested in helping with spreading the good news about our church. If you have ideas that you'd like to share, it would be more than appreciated. Great things happen when two or more gather in His name. - Yours in Christ, Debbie Stowe, Chair



Worship Committee:

Budget: \$500.00
Expenses: \$394.93
Income: \$170.00
Balance: \$275.07



It's been great to receive requests & suggestions for hymns from our congregation. I appreciate your taking time to let me know what your choices are. My goal is always to include our favorites & also try new hymns so that we

might discover additional favorites. I never realized there are so many in our hymn book that we have not even tried! Of course, some new hymns turn out to be definite "keepers"; others we may not revisit.

In this season of Thanksgiving, I want to sincerely say **THANK YOU** to those who offer help in so many ways with the work of the Worship Committee. Thank you for flowers, bulletins, greeting, reading Scripture, helping with hymn choice & all the other tasks necessary to make our services meaningful & inspiring.

Please do not forget that we need greeters each week. It is OK if you do not want to take the collection; just let me or the Elder/Deacon of the month know & we are happy to find a substitute. There is a sign-up sheet on the table in the fellowship room.

Also, keep in mind that our services are recorded on DVD & are available if you miss a service or want to share with a friend. - *In Christian Love, Cheryl Baker, Elder of Worship*

WELCOME BACK to Hank Dillenbeck, who has returned to his home at 14 Randall Road in Winslow. Noriko is on the wait list for Glenridge in Augusta.



Finance & Stewardship:

Balances as of 10/31/2016:

Checkbook	2,717.34
Memorial Fund	61,308.59
Faith Ames Music Fund	2,120.80
Meader Trust	31,805.14
Total	\$97,951.87

October was a good month financially for South China Community Church. Between the Turkey Pie Supper & the Craft Fair, we brought in almost \$1200 in fundraising. Thank-you, Debbie Stowe, for resurrecting the fair. The extra income we received from it puts us about \$500 in the black for the month. We are hoping the fair will grow next year.

As of the end of October, our spending for the year is just under projections (80%), so that's good, but our revenue is also under projections at 77%. The main reason for this is that we are short on our pledges & loose offerings. We're hoping to make up for some of this with holiday offerings before the end of the year.



Remember that 85% of our budgeted revenue comes from your generous donations! I would also like to encourage people to sponsor the bulletin for a month. Because of our current format, the cost has been reduced to \$25. This is a nice way to support the church & remember a loved one.

We still have figures from November & December to include, but we have prepared a preliminary budget for 2107. Projected expenditures are about \$3500 less than last year. Please see me if you'd like to see how it looks at this point. As always, I thank you for trusting me with the important responsibility of managing our church finances. - *Respectfully, Finance Chair, Janet Preston*





DEEP SYMPATHY & CONTINUED PRAYERS for the families & friends of those who have passed into God's hands:

Carl Schroeder
John Wardwell
Ron Goodine

WEB SITES of INTEREST

For quotes that celebrate the courage & commitment of our servicemen & women: www.guideposts.org/veteransquotes

Honor Flight Network is a non-profit created to honor America's veterans by transporting them to Washington DC to visit & reflect at their memorials. To donate or find a veterans' Honor Flight hub near you: www.honorflight.org

Solutions for holiday stress: www.guideposts.org/holidaystress

On the Lighter Side....

Policeman: OK, Buddy, where were you between 4 and 6?
Suspect: Uh, kindergarten.
Why do you ask?



Don't let your worries get the best of you. Remember Moses started out as a basket case.

Why couldn't they play cards on the Ark? Because Noah was standing on the deck.



FACTS & TRIVIA ABOUT SNOW:

** Every snowflake has its own unique shape & is different than all other snowflakes.

** All snowflakes have six sides.

** Snowflakes aren't always white. Years ago, when coal was used in factories & homes, snow was often grey because the coal dust entered the air & was absorbed by the clouds.

** The largest snowflakes ever recorded fell in the State of Montana. The snowflakes were 15" in diameter.

** The snow capital of the US is Stampede Pass in Washington State. Each year, the average snow fall is 430 inches.

** The average snowflake falls at a speed of 3.1 miles per hour.

** It's a blizzard when you can't see for 1/4 mile; the winds are always 35 miles an hour or more, & the storm must last at least 3hrs to be classed as a blizzard. If any of these conditions are less, it's only a snowstorm. Billions of snowflakes fall during one short snowstorm. (Source: http://www.guy-sports.com/humor/christmas/christmas_snow.htm)



Emily Schroeder has graciously volunteered to direct the Christmas play that was written by Carl; it will be held December 18 at 6M. Chris Faris has volunteered to cook the after-performance soups.



- † COMMUNION: DEC 4 - JAN 1 (EPIPHANY) - FEB 5
- † MEN'S STUDY GROUP - 6:30PM, 2ND & 4TH
TUESDAYS: DEC 13 & 27 - JAN 10 & 24 - FEB 14 & 28
- † CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS - 6:30PM, 2ND
WEDNESDAY: DEC 14 - JAN 11 - FEB 8
- † SUNDAY SCHOOL & ADULT BIBLE STUDY: EACH
SUNDAY AT 9AM
- † NOV 23: FREE COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING
DINNER, 12 NOON (PREPARATION WILL BE NOV
22 AT 9AM)
- † NOV 23: THANKSGIVING SERVICE, 6PM
- † NOV 26: HANGING OF THE GREENS, 9AM
- † ADVENT I - NOV 27
ADVENT II - DEC 4
ADVENT III - DEC 11
ADVENT IV - DEC 18
- † DEC 18: CHRISTMAS PLAY & SOUP SUPPER, 6PM
- † DC 24: CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE,
7PM
- † DEC 25: CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE, 10AM
- † JAN 7: DE-HANGING OF THE GREENS, 9AM
- † JAN 29, 5TH SUNDAY: PASTOR'S
DISCRETIONARY FUND DONATIONS (PDF
SUNDAY) + **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING!**
- † **NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: FEB 12, 2017**

Fall, Family, and Friends

I can't prove this, of course, but I think God made fall just for family and friends. Any time is a great time for being with those we love and appreciate, but fall seems special. Think about the reasons why this time of year is a great time for relationships and reunions:

School. This is a huge one. As much as kids imply that they don't like school, most kids love the social reunion that returning to school brings. But it's not just the kids—parents enjoy seeing each other again at school and sporting events.

Church. Because of travel and vacations, some churches make adjustments to their regularly scheduled programs during the summer. But after summer is over, everything gets back to normal. Suddenly, you're seeing friends at church and in small groups that you've not seen consistently during the summer.

Thanksgiving. If there's one event where families and friends connect, it has to be Thanksgiving. It seems people like to celebrate Christmas—at least Christmas morning—with just family. (It's hard to travel with all those presents, right?) But in America, Thanksgiving is the day we fling open the doors, tell people to bring a dish, spread it all out, and thank God for the blessings we enjoy.

Christmas. If Thanksgiving is the holiday of food and fun, Christmas is the holiday of love. In spite of the commercialization of Christmas, we can choose to focus on making memories year after year that remind us of God's amazing gift of love to us. As we attend special events and celebrate the Lord's birth, we are inevitably drawn closer to those we love as family and friends.

Lump those four dynamics together—school, church, and the two holidays—and fall arrives with more reasons to celebrate than any other season of the year. (From David Jeremiah **Ministries**)



Christmas Quotes

Source: <http://www.quote花园.com/christmas.html>



Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful. ~Norman Vincent Peale

He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree. ~Roy L. Smith

Christmas is a time when you get homesick — even when you're home. ~Carol Nelson

There has only been one Christmas — the rest are anniversaries. ~W.J. Cameron

Christmas is not as much about opening our presents as opening our hearts. ~J.L.W. Brooks

The best of all gifts around any Christmas tree: the presence of a happy family all wrapped up in each other. ~Burton Hillis

Christmas is forever, not for just one day, for loving, sharing, giving, are not to put away like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf. The good you do for others is good you do yourself... ~Norman Wesley Brooks (1923–2002), "Let Every Day Be Christmas"

"It came without ribbons! It came without tags! It came without packages, boxes or bags!... Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! "Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas... perhaps... means a little bit more!" ~Dr. Seuss, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*

I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. ~Charles Dickens

Gifts of time and love are surely the basic ingredients of a truly merry Christmas. ~Peg Bracken

It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air. ~W.T. Ellis

Tradition: sit with husband in a room lit only by tree lights and remember that our blessings outnumber the lights. Happy Christmas to all. ~Betsy Cañas Garmon

When we recall Christmas past, we usually find that the simplest things — not the great occasions — give off the greatest glow of happiness. ~Bob Hope

May you have the gladness of Christmas which is hope; The spirit of Christmas which is peace; The heart of Christmas which is love. ~Ada V. Hendricks

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet, The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!
~Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace. ~Agnes M. Pahro

Christmas gift suggestions: To your enemy, forgiveness. To an opponent, tolerance. To a friend, your heart. To a customer, service. To all, charity. To every child, a good example. To yourself, respect. ~Oren Arnold

Christmas is not a time or a season but a state of mind. To cherish peace and good will, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas. ~Calvin Coolidge, 1927



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*“For unto us a child is born,
unto us a son is given...and his
name shall be called Wonderful,
Counsellor, the Mighty God, the
Everlasting Father, the Prince
of Peace.”*

- *Isaiah 9:6*

