
SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH



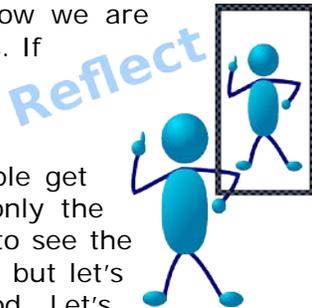
Rev. Paul Harwath, Pastor

February 2017

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

With so much snow still on the ground & the possibility of receiving more, it's hard to believe that spring is just around the corner. I can choose to complain about the weather or I can choose to look forward & see the wonderful spring we will have because of all the snow melting, filling our rivers & lakes.

Every day we decide how we are going to look at our lives. If we wake up not feeling well, it's easy to see the negative & overlook the positive. Some people get caught up looking for only the bad. I believe we need to see the tough parts of our lives, but let's concentrate on the good. Let's share our view of life with those around us.



Everyone loves to be around others who view life with a loving & positive attitude. The great thing about these people is that their attitudes are contagious. If we are Christians who believe that God is always with us, holding our hand, then we can face any hardship with an uplifted head. This is the best way to preach the Gospel & the most effective. Let your light so shine, that all who come to see you, will praise God. *My Love and God's love be with you all. - Pastor Paul*

positive thoughts
generate
positive feelings
and attract
positive life
experiences

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

President's Report:

"Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test."

~2 Corinthians 13:5-6 (NIV)



Greetings and God bless! I'm honored to have been re-elected President of the Council. Reflecting upon the annual meeting, there were things that I felt I could have done better. Thank you for being patient & understanding as I tried to lead the meeting. I have already made adjustments to the agenda for the next one.

Janet Preston resigned from her position as Finance Chair, but she will still hold a position on the Finance Committee. Thank you for your continued service. John Glowa has been elected to assume the Finance Council position & was recently ordained as a Deacon. Thank you for stepping up to fill this vacancy. "Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me."
~John 12:26

The Council meets monthly to discuss finances, education, worship, communications/outreach, missions/benevolence, building maintenance, & fundraising efforts to support the church & its programs. At this time, we have less revenue coming in than our annual expenses, but looking at the budget, we really can't cut anything else.

To bring in more friends & family, we are still looking to schedule fellowship & community events. We just held a Candy Making Day & Candy Sale. March 11 will be a Craft Day from 10AM - 2PM. It would be great if you could join us! If you would like to share a talent, please see Debbie Stowe or myself to schedule a date or attend one of the Council meetings. They are held the second Wednesday of every month & begin at 6:30PM.

I'd like to thank everyone for their generosity & kindness. All of us together, with the Holy Spirit, make this church welcoming to all. May we continue to grow in faith & bring Jesus into the lives of others. "Yes, there are many parts, but only one body." ~ 1 Corinthians 12:20
 - In Christian Love, Paula Kimball-Vigue, President



Missions & Benevolence:

We had a very successful outreach year in 2016. Even though we are not currently distributing food to the two families we have assisted, we will continue to provide funds to help with school clothes & Christmas gifts for the children in those families. Our budget has again been reduced & we will need your support to provide these benefits.

Pastor Paul is being referred by the Salvation Army to families that need emergency help with fuel, Christmas gifts, etc. Therefore, he will also need our financial support. Please support PDF (Pastor's Discretionary Fund) offerings on the months that have a Fifth Sunday as this enables Pastor Paul to meet the smaller emergency requests he receives without asking the congregation for special donations.

Thanks to Marge & Jack Kurtzman for their ideas & **your** contributions, we have a full emergency food bin. Let us know of any family that could be helped with this food. Lois Rogers, who is a member of the Benevolence Committee & also volunteers at the China Food Pantry, will call our attention to immediate needs the Pantry might have; your willingness to donate to this community outreach is truly appreciated. Thanks again for your sharing & caring & "God Bless." - Glenna Jordan, Deacon/Benevolence Chair



Building & Grounds:

Work in the winter is good indoor work & the improvements to the physical plant continue. Walls are being painted & finished & soon the plumbing in the bathroom will be as good as the new walls.

The parking lot is shrinking due to snow banks; it is time for us to be careful about our parking. Be mindful of how you park, as a bad job wastes spaces we cannot afford to lose. If you come first, parking in the back row is an easy way to look after others. If you can park further away & walk, it will look after those who cannot. Failing all that, you can park next to me in the FairPoint lot and walk up ☺ - Ron Maxwell, Chair

Christian Education:

"If we don't teach our children to follow Christ, the world will teach them not to." - Based on Proverbs 22:6. Author Unknown



Sunday School has continued with five to seven children attending most weeks. I would like to see these numbers higher, but feel blessed that we do have this many attending regularly. It has allowed for discussions, activities, & learning songs. It has been a blessing to work with God's children.

Some supplies were purchased at the end of last year, but more will be needed. Some glue sticks were donated, but unfortunately, they just don't work; I'd like to get a hot-glue gun to use for some projects. We have plenty of crayons & markers at this time. Additional supplies will be determined when the need arises; space for the supplies still needs to be reorganized. If someone would like to help me



with this project over April vacation, that would be great! Otherwise, it will be done over the summer. Four cloth baskets were purchased last year for the shelves & will be used for cloth, ribbon, yarn, etc. At \$1 each, I couldn't resist!

I did request a replacement teacher, as working all week, taking classes, attending meetings at least one day a week, & trying to teach every Sunday has been too much for me. After several weeks/months with no volunteers to assist, I spoke with Pastor Paul about it. I do not want the Sunday School program to end by any means. He reminded me of the earlier plan to do it as home schooling, so I have decided that beginning in September, the weeks that Flock #3 is to handle fellowship, we will not have Sunday School unless a substitute teacher offers to cover those weeks.

We will still provide Child Care each week & have half a dozen wonderful members caring for our children after the Children's message. If you would like to add your name to that list of volunteers, it would be greatly appreciated. Come see me, email me, or call me to let me know.

Deuteronomy 11:19 "You shall teach them to your sons..." - *In Christian Love, Paula Kimball-Vigue, Elder of Christian Education*



Communications & Outreach:

I want to thank all who helped with the Valentine candy sale. This goes to those who shopped, made candy, & purchased the candy. We sold out & made \$54 for the Pastor's pdf fund. I think this was great, especially due to the weather we had. The best part for me was all the people who are ready to get together for another candy/bake sale in the future. Yes, the date will be set far enough ahead so that hopefully we won't have to worry about snow or Northeasters!



I am blessed to have Elaine Wardwell, Diane Rawson, Lindsey Harwath & Darlene Zimmerman offer to help with upcoming events. We will be having a craft day on March 11th to make items for the October fair; all are welcome to come enjoy the fellowship & good time. We hope to come up with some fun ideas for fundraising, so keep tuned in for upcoming events! - *Yours in Christ, Debbie Stowe, Chair*



Holy Week

Worship Committee:

This is the beginning of my third year as Elder of Worship – these past two years have truly sped past. I've learned a lot about church business & all that it takes to keep our church functioning.

One of my roles is to meet each week with the Worship Committee to choose music. It is fun to browse through our hymnal, looking for new music & rediscovering favorites. I maintain a list of what hymns we have sung & try not to repeat any of them more than twice per

year. What a help YouTube has been! Since I cannot even read music, it gives me an opportunity to listen to unfamiliar music. I always try to include in our service one new hymn or one we have not done in a long, long time.

We are so fortunate that Ron Maxwell is willing to fill in for Pastor Paul during his well-deserved vacation (February 26, March 5). The Ash Wednesday service (March 1) will be cancelled, just for this year. Also, remember that March Communion will be moved to the second Sunday of the month, March 12.

Although Easter seems far away as I write on this snowy day, Holy Week will be here before we know it. During that week, we will have our traditional Maundy Thursday evening service (April 13) & Good Friday (April 14) Stations of the Cross. Both services will be at 6PM.



The cost for sponsoring our weekly bulletin is just \$25 for a month. What a nice way to remember or honor loved ones! There are still several months available in 2017; a sign-up sheet is located on the table in Memorial Hall.

Thank you very much for your support! As always, please feel free to bring suggestions and/or complaints to me. - *In Christian Love, Cheryl Baker, Elder of Worship*

Did you know that singing together increases social connectedness, slows & syncs heart rate, lowers blood pressure, calms the vagus nerve, & thus boosts the immune system & the chance for a longer life? So says an article in the January 2017 issue of *Prevention* magazine. In addition, it helps you gain confidence & may even help prevent Alzheimer's. So... what better reasons than to think about joining the choir? Not only are you singing God's praises, it's good for your health!



Finance & Stewardship:

Thank you all for electing me to serve as the Chairperson of the Finance Committee. Janet Preston & the other Council members have done a great job of keeping our expenditures to a minimum while still serving the needs of the congregation & members of the public who need our help.

One concern I have already heard is that while we have been keeping our expenses to a minimum, our revenue has lagged slightly behind our expenses. This is a trend that we have to turn around.



As Finance Chair, my top priorities will be to work to raise our revenue, to insure your monies are spent as efficiently & effectively as possible & to not spend more than we take in.

I am a firm believer in thinking outside the box. As our congregation has gotten older & smaller in size over the long term, we have to start thinking outside the box if we are to once again grow & prosper. We have many wonderful traditions & activities that make us who we are as a church community, but we need to begin to think of new ideas & ways of spreading our message. We need to let more people know who we are & that everyone is welcome here. In my own experience, it took me years to first open the door to this church, but from the moment I first came here, I felt as if I belonged.

I want to thank you all for your generosity with your time, energy & financial support. Working together, South China Community Church will become an even greater force for good in our community. I look forward to serving you & if you have any concerns or if I can ever be of help, please contact me. Thank you. - *John Glowa, Finance Chair*



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



Sheldon Goodine, on the loss of his mother, Rosezella (Goodine) Souther



Food for thought...

The Israelites' pre-flight meal consisted of a fire-roasted sacrificial lamb with bitter herbs & unleavened bread. They were to eat the meal standing, cloaks & sandals on, staffs in hand, ready to flee. The foods of the Seder tell the Passover story:

Roasted shank bone recalls the lamb-on-the-run; vegetables dipped in salt water represent the Israelites' tears during years of enslavement; bitter herbs like horseradish or chicory symbolize their harsh servitude; fruit-and-nut mixtures represent the mortar used to construct buildings in Egypt; hard-boiled eggs are symbols of renewal & rebirth, but also are traditionally the food of mourners & are eaten in memory of the two lost temples in Jerusalem; matzoh, an unleavened bread, is included because the fleeing Israelites had no time to let their bread rise. (From April 2016 Guideposts article)



"Our bodies would cry out if we only fed them once a day. How can we do any less for our souls?" – *Bill Myers, Author/Filmmaker*

Dogwood Legend

An old & beautiful legend has it that at the time of the crucifixion, the dogwood was comparable in size to the oak tree & other monarchs of the forest. Because of its firmness & strength, it was selected as the timber for the cross, but to be put to such a cruel use greatly distressed the tree. Sensing this, the crucified Jesus, in His gentle pity for the sorrow & suffering of all, said to it:

"Because of your sorrow & pity for my sufferings, never again will the dogwood tree grow large enough to be used as a gibbet. Henceforth, it will be slender, bent & twisted. Its blossoms will be in the form of a cross: two long & two short petals. In the center of the outer reach of each petal there will be nail prints, brown with rust & stained with red. In the center of the flower will be the crown of thorns & all who see this will remember."



The donkey that carried Jesus into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday followed Him to Calvary. Appalled by the sight of Jesus on the cross, the donkey turned away but could not leave. It is said that the shadow of the cross fell upon the shoulders and back of the donkey. A cross marking found on many donkeys today remains a testimony of the love and devotion of a humble, little donkey.

INSPIRATIONAL LIFE LESSONS

(Submitted by Glenna Jordan via Linda Ames)

Lesson #1 - Cleaning Lady

During my second month of college, our professor gave us a pop quiz. I was a conscientious student & had breezed through the questions until I read the last one: "What is the first name of the woman who cleans the school?"



Surely this was some kind of joke. I had seen the cleaning woman several times. She was tall, dark-haired & in her 50s, but how would I know her name?

I handed in my paper, leaving the last question blank. Just before class ended, one student asked if the last question would count toward our quiz grade.

"Absolutely," said the professor. "In your careers, you will meet many people. All are significant. They deserve your attention & care, even if all you do is smile & say 'hello.'"

I've never forgotten that lesson. I also learned her name was Dorothy.

Lesson #2 – Remember Those Who Serve

In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10yr old boy entered a hotel coffee shop & sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him. "How much is an ice cream sundae?" he asked. "Fifty cents," replied the waitress. The little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket & studied the coins in it. "Well, how much is a plain dish of ice cream?" he inquired.



By now, more people were waiting for a table & the waitress was growing impatient. "Thirty-five cents," she brusquely replied. The little boy again counted his coins.

"I'll have the plain ice cream," he said. The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table & walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier & left.

When the waitress came back, she began to cry as she cleared the table. There, neatly beside the empty dish were two nickels & five pennies. He chose not to have the sundae so he could leave her a tip.

Lesson #3 – Obstacles in Our Path

In ancient times, a King had a boulder placed on a roadway. Then he hid himself & watched to see if anyone would remove the huge rock. Some of the King's wealthiest merchants & courtiers came by & simply walked around it. Many loudly blamed the King for not keeping the roads clear, but none did anything about getting the stone out of the way.

Then a peasant came along carrying a load of vegetables. Upon approaching the boulder, the peasant laid down his burden & tried to move the stone to the side of the road. After much pushing & straining, he finally succeeded.

After the peasant picked up his load of vegetables, he noticed a purse lying in the road where the boulder had been. It contained many gold coins & a note from the



King indicating the gold was for the person who removed the boulder from the roadway. The peasant learned what many of us never understand: every obstacle presents an opportunity to improve our condition.

Live with no regrets & treat people the way you want to be treated

***No act of kindness,
no matter
how small,
is ever wasted.
- Aesop***

On the Lighter Side....



A mother was preparing pancakes for her young sons. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a lesson. "If Jesus was sitting here," she told them, "He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait.'" The oldest boy turned to his brother and said, "You can be Jesus."

 Q: What did God say after creating Adam?
 A: "I must be able to do better than that."

Q: What did God say after creating Eve?
 A: "Practice makes perfect."

 Did you hear about the lady whose house was infested with Easter eggs? She had to call an eggs-terminator!

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

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

Note from the editor:

In an effort to save copying/mailling costs, I'd like to offer e-mailing the newsletter or notifying you when it has been posted on our website for you to access/print at your convenience. Please let me or Debbie Stowe know if you are interested/agreeable to this change in delivery; if so, be sure we have your email address! Thanks, Jayne (Winters)



- † COMMUNION: MARCH 12 (NOTE DATE CHANGE) - APRIL 2 - MAY 7
- † MEN'S STUDY GROUP - 6:30PM, 2ND & 4TH
TUESDAYS: FEB 28 - MARCH 14 & 28 - APRIL 11 & 25 - MAY 9 & 23
- † CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS - 6:30PM, 2ND
WEDNESDAY: MARCH 8 - APRIL 12 - MAY 10
- † SUNDAY SCHOOL & ADULT BIBLE STUDY: EACH SUNDAY AT 9AM
- † MARCH 1 - ASH WEDNESDAY (NO SERVICE AS PASTOR PAUL WILL BE AWAY)
- † MARCH 11 - CRAFT DAY, 10AM - 2PM
- † MARCH 12 - DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
(SPRING FORWARD!)
- † APRIL 8 - SUNDAY SCHOOL EASTER PARTY
- † APRIL 9 - PALM SUNDAY
- † APRIL 10 - PASSOVER
- † APRIL 13 - MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE, 6PM
- † APRIL 14 - GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE (STATIONS OF THE CROSS), 6PM
- † APRIL 16 - EASTER
- † **NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: MAY 14, 2017**



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*“Show respect even to people
who don’t deserve it; not as a
reflection of their character, but
as a reflection of yours.”*

- Dave Willis, Pastor

