
SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH



Rev. Paul Harwath, Pastor

May 2017

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

I've been saving a story that happened while I was visiting my parents this past winter. My father & I were out shopping & while at a store that deals in 2nd hand electronics, I decided to purchase a Blue Ray player for Mom & Dad. While there, I was also excited to find an attachment for one of Luke's cameras, so I decided to buy both items. The young salesman was very good & I hoped he would receive credit for extra sales.

We left the store & were about a mile away, when I realized that I had only been charged for the Blue Ray. I told my dad that we must turn around & pay for the camera attachment; I especially didn't want the salesman to get into any trouble.

I went back into the store, but he was nowhere to be found. I was approached by another salesman & told him what had happened, that the salesman who sold me everything was very good & I didn't want to get him in trouble. Unfortunately, the salesman I was talking to happened to be the store manager. He replied, stating that the young man who had helped me out so well would immediately be fired! I argued with him, but it was of no use. The young salesman was fired.

I left feeling bad & wondered, if I had known what would happen, would I still have returned to pay for the unpaid purchase? We're all faced with choices like this daily, maybe not as extreme, but of consequence nonetheless. Struggling with these choices is what is most important. What choice would you have made? - *God's & my love to you all,*
Pastor Paul



CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

President's Report:

Greetings & God bless!

"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)

We've had some wonderful months of service & fellowship. Thank you to everyone who contributes!

The Council meets monthly to discuss finances, Christian education, worship, communications & outreach, missions & benevolence, church maintenance & ways to raise money to support the church & its programs. At this time, we still have less incoming revenue than our annual expenses. If you have any ideas for raising much-needed funds, please come to one of our meetings, which are held at 6:30PM on the 2nd Wednesday of the month.

If you know of someone looking for a family-friendly church, please bring them to one of our services. We would love to welcome them!



In an effort to attract new attendees, we're always looking to schedule fellowship & community events. We held another Candy Making Day & Sale, as well as another Craft Day, this past month. If you have a talent to share, please talk to Debbie Stowe or myself or come to a Council meeting.

As I write this, I'm preparing for wrist surgery, but once healed, I'd like to offer a paint night at the church, probably this summer. There would be a cost to cover material expenses.

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 the 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:

In March, we received a letter & pictures from Lexi Porter, the teen we donated funds to last year for her mission trip to El Salvador. The pictures detailed the work they did in helping folks build homes & helping the school age children.

Thanks to Jack & Marge for providing the Easter baskets & your help in filling them for the six children, as well as the adults in Family #2. We also gave them some food from our emergency supply for which they were most grateful.



Pastor Paul is still being referred, by the Salvation Army, to families that need emergency help for various reasons. He recently used his PDF money & made special requests to the congregation to assist an elderly lady who needed clothes & meals & a woman laid off from work with rent.

Special thanks go to Debbie Stowe & those who helped her make Easter candy, which was sold after church on two Sundays. The sales totaled \$106.50 & was deposited in Pastor Paul's Pastor Discretionary Fund (PDF) to help with the above-mentioned requests. Also

thanks to Natalie Spangler, a Waterville friend of SCCC, who just sent a \$100 donation for Pastor Paul's PDF use.

Just a reminder to please support PDF offerings on the months that have a 5th Sunday (July 30th) as this enables Pastor Paul to meet the smaller emergency requests he receives without asking the congregation for special donations.

Another reminder that 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 appreciated. Thanks again for your sharing & caring and "God Bless." - *Glenna Jordan, Deacon/ Benevolence Chair*



Feeding the Community

Building & Grounds:

Outside, spring has finally sprung! Lawns are ready for mowing. The bushes are starting to recover from last fall's pruning & look less like children with a very severe haircut! The front flowerbeds have had finishing touches added by Glenna & her crew – just what the front of the church needed!

Inside projects are moving along as well. The windows are being opened & rooms have that "Spring Clean" feel. Carpet cleaning will happen before the end of the month & lighting in Memorial Hall is next on the list of what will be fixed. A second bathroom is also in the works – stay tuned! - *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'd still like to see these numbers higher, but continue to feel blessed to work with those who are attending. I'm hoping the children will be ready to sing during one of our Children's Messages by Father's Day; they've been practicing three songs.

Almost every week, we cover the Ten Commandments. We've discussed several topics including Lent, Jesus's death on the cross, & His rising. We talked about Easter traditions & made paper mache Easter eggs; the road to Emmaus & how things are not always what they seem was another discussion. Most recently, we looked at ways to honor our mothers in preparation for Mother's Day. Upcoming topics will be Ascension Sunday, Trinity Sunday & honoring our fathers for Father's Day.



In the last newsletter, I stated that I had requested a replacement teacher as I was feeling overwhelmed with working fulltime, taking classes, attending meetings, & teaching Sunday School. Beth Preston has agreed to cover

the weeks that I have flock duties – thank you, Beth! Lydia Biswell has been a huge blessing to me & Christian Education as well; she comes in to help almost every Sunday & has filled in for me as necessary. We work very well together & I'm so grateful that God brought her back to our church & into my life!

A reminder that Father's Day is the last Sunday School for the season; it will resume September 10, the Sunday after Labor Day. We will still provide child care each week throughout the summer; we have a half dozen wonderful members who care for our children following the Children's Message. If you'd like to add your name to that list of volunteers, it would be greatly appreciated! Come see me,

e-mail or call me if you have any questions. I'll be making a new list for the 2nd half of the year before the end of June, God willing.

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

Communications & Outreach:

We're gearing up for a busy summer! The first Turkey Pie Supper was held on May 20th & we added a silent auction. The congregation donated items for the auction, as well as the craft group. It was a fun event!

We're working on a church flyer to be mailed to China area residents in June. We want to let others know about our great church & would like to share why YOU attend SCCC. Please consider sharing your thoughts with me?

The crafters/sewing/baking group usually meets at least once a month for fellowship & to make items for the church. These get-togethers are open to everyone, so come play with us! It doesn't seem like work when we have such a good time! - *Yours in Christ, Debbie Stowe, Chair*



Worship Committee:

Several months are still open in which there is an opportunity to sponsor our weekly bulletin. As I write this, June, July, September, October and November are still available. The cost for one month is only \$25. This is a nice way to remember or honor loved ones, as a dedication will be printed in all bulletins for the entire month. A sign-up sheet is located in Memorial Hall.



We've been enjoying two of our Easter banners during this season; they will soon be coming down & replaced by others. Many of our banners are showing signs of age & new ones would definitely be enjoyed! We have a number of

them for the Christmas season, a few for Easter & fall harvest. It would be great to have others for the summer or other times during the year, so... if you're looking for a rewarding project, please consider making a banner for our sanctuary. Another project might be to go through them to make sure they're looking their best.

It's been quite a few weeks now since the chairs in the sanctuary were adjusted after Mr. Dow's funeral service. The new arrangement provides wider aisles & better access for wheelchairs & walkers; please let me know if you have any comments. - *In Christian Love, Cheryl Baker, Elder of Worship*

Finance & Stewardship:

We want to thank Eddy Nichols for doing such a great job as Treasurer for the past two years; she recently stepped down for health reasons, but Jeff & Darlene Zimmerman have been appointed as our new Co-Treasurers. Thank you Eddy, Jeff & Darlene!



The primary mission of the Finance Committee is "...to conservatively manage the Church's financial assets in order to meet the needs of the Church." The church's financial assets total ~\$95,000 depending on the current balance in our checking account, which we use for operating expenses.

Until recently, all of our assets were in very low interest bearing accounts ranging from 0.05% (checking) to 0.3% (savings). The annual accumulated interest was negligible & in fact, the value of our assets was declining due to inflation. We recently purchased three guaranteed five-year annuities, each having a 2.65% interest rate. We put the entire Meader Family Fund into one annuity for \$31,828.14 & most of the Memorial Fund into two annuities, each for \$25,000. We did not put the entire Memorial Fund into annuities in the event that we may, on occasion, have to take money from that fund to meet our operating expenses. At the end of the five years, barring any unforeseen withdrawals, the annuities will

have accumulated approximately \$10,000 in interest.

Unfortunately, we have had to make a \$3,000 withdrawal from our Memorial Fund this year in order to meet operating expenses; we're already at or near a "bare bones" budget in terms of our expenditures. You, the members of our congregation, are generous almost beyond belief. For such a small membership, we're doing wonderful things & are extremely fortunate to have a full-time pastor.



For the 2017 budget, we have a weekly target for the collection plate of \$1,010.47; we've been averaging (through May 7, 2017) \$968.71 per week. This is an incredible show of generosity from such a small group! We're at 96% of our weekly average goal for collections, which is excellent, given that summer's increased attendance is still ahead of us.

Generally speaking, our financial condition is good, barring unexpected expenses. Most of our funds are in guaranteed accounts that provide as good a return on our money as I was able to find. Our expenses & expenditures to date are generally on-target. We do need to grow our attendance/membership numbers in order to increase our available funds to provide more of a financial cushion & expand our church activities & benevolence. Thank you all. - *Respectfully, John Glowa, Chair*

WEB SITES of INTEREST

Favorite signs of spring:

<http://www.guideposts.org/springjoys>

Tips on family caregiving:

<http://www.homeinstead.com/guideposts>

Resources on finding volunteer ideas:

<http://www.good-sam.com/guideposts>

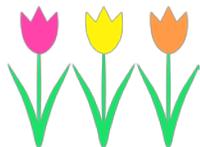
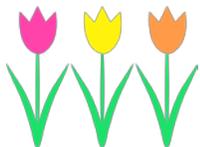
Instructions to make "pocket crosses":

<http://youtube/> "Pocket Cross Ministry"

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



Diane Webber-Rawson, whose mom, Helen Hovestadt, passed away in late February



Inspiring Mothers of the Bible *(From an article by Brett Leveridge)*



To commemorate Mother's Day, let's consider some of the inspiring matriarchal figures in the Bible:

♥ **Eve, Mother of All Humanity**

Then the Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper who is just right for him." - Genesis 2:18

Eve was the first woman, the first wife, & the first mother. Though she was not without her flaws & failings, she also experienced many firsts, both joyful & heartbreaking. She was the first to experience childbirth, the first to see her children at odds with one another, the first to experience the grief of losing a child & of seeing one of her offspring commit violence.

♥ **Sarah, Mother of Isaac**

"I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her." - Genesis 17:16

Many couples can identify with the sorrows of Sarah & her husband, Abraham. They longed to have a child together, but they were still childless long after they might reasonably have hoped to conceive. But God sent three angels to assure Abraham that he would be blessed with a son by Sarah. As promised, Sarah soon gave birth to Isaac & thereby was anointed the mother of all Israel.

♥ **Rebekah, Mother of Jacob & Esau**

"Two nations are in your womb, and two peoples from within you will be separated; one people will be stronger than the other, and the older will serve the younger." - Genesis 25:24

Rebekah was wife to Isaac & like her mother-in-law, Sarah, she was for many years unable to bear a child. Isaac prayed for God to bless Rebekah with a child & his prayers were answered: she gave birth to twins, Esau & Jacob. Esau was born first, but Jacob was his mother's favorite. This caused strife between the two brothers, though they eventually made peace. Jacob would father 12 sons, by several mothers, & they would go on to lead the 12 tribes of Israel.

♥ **Jochebed, Mother of Moses**

So, the woman took the baby and nursed him. When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water." - Exodus 2:9-10

Having given birth to a son at a time when the Pharaoh was threatening to have all male Hebrew babies killed, Jochebed hid her baby among the reeds in a waterproofed basket. He was discovered by a royal maidservant & brought to the Pharaoh's daughter. Jochebed's daughter, Miriam, witnessed this & convinced the Pharaoh's daughter to allow a Hebrew woman to nurse the child. That woman was Jochebed. Having nursed & raised him, Jochebed brought her son back to the Pharaoh's

daughter to ensure that he would be safe. God would eventually use Moses to lead the Hebrews out of slavery. Jochebed was also mother to Aaron, a high priest of Israel.

♥ **Hannah, Mother of Samuel**

Eli answered, "Go in peace, and may the God of Israel grant you what you have asked of him." - 1 Samuel 1:17

Hannah was unable to have children & her husband's other wife, who had born children, taunted her for it. She prayed for God to bless her with a child. Hannah, who had promised God that if He blessed her with a son, she would dedicate him to His service, soon gave birth to a child she named Samuel (who would be Israel's first prophet). God further blessed Hannah with three more sons & two daughters.

♥ **Elizabeth, Mother of John the Baptist**

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. In a loud voice, she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear!" - Luke 1:41-42

Elizabeth & her husband, Zechariah, were both advanced enough in age that when the angel Gabriel told Zechariah they would soon have a child, he refused to believe it (he was made mute for his lack of faith).

As Gabriel had promised, Elizabeth soon conceived & while she was pregnant, she received a visit from Mary, who was also with child. The Bible tells us that Elizabeth's son jumped for joy within her at the sound of Mary's voice.

Elizabeth & Zechariah named their child John, as Gabriel had instructed them to do, & when they had done so, Zechariah's power of speech immediately returned. John would grow up to be John the Baptist, the prophet who foretold the coming of the Christ, Mary's son, Jesus.

♥ **Mary, Mother of Jesus**

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her. - Luke 1:38

Mary, the mother of Jesus, is the most beloved & revered woman in the Bible. An angel appeared to her & said, "Hail, thou who art full of grace; the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women." Nervous as she may have been, she willingly accepted her role to give birth to Jesus. "He shall be great, and men will know him for the Son of the most High; the Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he shall reign over the house of Jacob eternally," the angel told her. She remained stalwart in her faith. As she said after she learned she would give birth to Jesus, "Behold, from this day forward all generations will count me blessed."



On the Lighter Side....

Q: Why did the physics teacher break up with the biology teacher?

A: No chemistry

Q: What do you use to get corn cobs so smooth?

A: Kernel sanders

Q: What do you get when you cross a baby with a soldier?

A: The infantry



- † ADULT BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9AM
- † CHURCH SERVICE, 10AM
- † COMMUNION: JUNE 4 - JULY 2 - AUGUST 6
- † MEN'S STUDY GROUP: 6:30PM, 2ND & 4TH
TUESDAYS: JUNE 13 & 27 - JULY 11 & 25 -
AUGUST 8 & 22
- † CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS: 6:30PM, 2ND
WEDNESDAY: JUNE 14 - JULY 12 - AUGUST 9
- † JUNE 10: TENTATIVE CRAFT DAY FOR WORKERS,
10AM-1PM, LUNCH PROVIDED
- † JUNE 16: SET-UP FOR TURKEY PIE SUPPER, 9AM
- † JUNE 17: TURKEY PIE SUPPER, 5-6:30PM (WITH
SILENT AUCTION, 50/50 RAFFLE & SALE OF
HOMEMADE GOODIES) GLENNA JORDAN, CHAIR
- † JUNE 18: FATHER'S DAY + LAST DAY OF BIBLE
STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL UNTIL SEPTEMBER
- † JULY 30, 5TH SUNDAY: PASTOR'S
DISCRETIONARY FUND DONATIONS (PDF
SUNDAY)
- † OCT 1: CRAFT FAIR, 9AM-3PM; TABLES \$15
EACH
- † OCT 22: TURKEY PIE SUPPER, 5-6:30PM
(GLENNA JORDAN, CHAIR)
- † **NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: AUGUST 13,
2017**



IF...you have food in the refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof overhead, & a place to sleep, you are richer than 75% of this world.

IF...you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who will not survive this week.

IF...you have money in the bank, in your wallet, & spare change in a dish someplace, you are among the top 80% of the world's wealthy.

IF...you can attend a church meeting without fear of harassment, arrest, torture, or death, you are more blessed than three billion people in the world.

IF...you have never experienced the danger of battle, the loneliness of imprisonment, the agony of torture, or the pangs of starvation, you are ahead of 500 million people in the world.

IF...you hold up your head with a smile on your face & are truly thankful, you are blessed because the majority can, but most do not.

IF...you can read this message, you are more blessed than over two billion people in the world who cannot read at all.

Never lose your sense of gratitude or sense of responsibility for those are not nearly as blessed as you are. There are many local, not-for-profit organizations working toward improving lives through education, health-care, public safety, animal welfare, the arts, & more. Be a part of making a difference.

South China Community Church
246 Village Street, PO Box 335
South China, ME 04358
southchinacommunitychurch.org

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

- *Proverbs 3:5-6*

