
SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH



Rev. Paul Harwath, Pastor

August 2017

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Winter is coming. That's a line from the popular HBO series, "Game of Thrones." It means the hardest of times is coming. That is true in all our lives, at some point or another, & we cannot prevent it from happening. The best we can do is be prepared for its eventual arrival.

Many people go through life pretending that difficult times will never happen in their lives; when they eventually arrive at the doorstep, they can't believe it is happening to them. The strain is much harder to bear when we are unprepared. Many are angry with God because of their own lack of forethought. God sent His Only Son so that we might be prepared for winter.

Always remember that winter will eventually turn to spring. It's much easier to make it through winter with many cords of wood at the ready. - *God's & my love to all of you, Pastor Paul*



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CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

President's Report:

Greetings & God bless! The Church Council, which consists of Glenna Jordan (Secretary, Missions & Benevolence Chair), Cheryl Baker (Worship Chair), Debbie Stowe (Communications & Outreach Chair), John Glowa (Finance

Chair), Ron Maxwell (Vice President, Buildings & Maintenance Chair), & myself (President, Christian Education Chair), & Pastor Paul have been meeting the 2nd Wednesday of each month to discuss the operations of the church, its finances, & ways we can help the church & the community. If you have any ideas, suggestions, or comments, please call or text me at (207) 458-0283; we may either schedule you to come to a meeting or put your item onto the agenda. E-mail is also an option, but I get many throughout the day & often cannot regularly check my personal e-mails now that school is starting up.

We've seen some new faces & are sad at the loss of others. Recently we sent SCCC introductory flyers out to the community & since then I have been keeping track of our attendance. Beginning mid-July, the total numbers were as follows: 7/16 (58), 7/23 (57), 7/30 (51), 8/6 (67), 8/13 (53), & 8/20 (43). Many of our congregational members are on vacation & we had our summer friends here, so the numbers are fluctuating. We do know that at least one couple came because of the flyer. Hopefully more will come by some Sunday to check us out & see how much of a loving and caring 'family' we are.

Our fundraising events have gone very well this year, but they still do not offset the decrease in tithes, pledges & loose offerings. We have a few more Turkey Pie Suppers coming up & a craft fair in October. Donations to go in the silent auctions & crafters to help with craft fair items are more than welcome.

Together with Jesus Christ, we can succeed. Thank you to everyone who share their gifts. God did not give us gifts to bury in the sand, but to share with those around us. - *In Christian Love, Paula Kimball-Vigue, President*



Missions & Benevolence:

We have not had any special requests for assistance since our May newsletter update. The Benevolence Committee again decided to assist our two families with money for school clothes/supplies. We



used money from the Benevolence Fund, but also want to extend a special "Thank You" to those who responded to our request for

supplemental donations. Checks have been given to both families, who were most appreciative. Since expiration dates were nearing, Family #2 gratefully took the food in our emergency supply.

Just another reminder to please support PDF (Pastor's Discretionary Fund) offerings on the months that have a Fifth Sunday (next one is Oct. 29th) 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 & "God Bless."
- Glenna Jordan, Deacon/ Benevolence Chair

Building & Grounds:

"House-keeping" responsibilities have been reviewed with the sexton; a check-off chart with the specific duties to be completed & how often is now in place. In addition, a new vacuum cleaner has been purchased.



Concerns about completing repairs in the 2nd bathroom were discussed. They will be fairly expensive & our current budget restraints prohibit finishing this project at this time. - Ron Maxwell, Chair

Christian Education: Welcome Back!

Sunday school for both adults & children will be starting up again the Sunday after Labor Day (Sept. 10). Pastor Paul will lead the adults & I will guide the children, with the help of Lydia Biswell. The Sunday school rooms will be changed around some & one room will no longer be used; we will use the two connected rooms. Some organization pieces have been donated to help clean up the clutter.

As far as the teachings, we will be pulling from many sources, but plan on keeping it aligned with the seasons & scriptures being read during services. We will also continue to look at the Ten Commandments. The goal is for the children to learn some of the scriptures through readings, songs, & other activities. If we have enough children attend, a play or puppet show would be included as well.

Childcare will also start up again on the same day as Sunday school. We have some people on the rotation, but could really use some more. If you'd be willing to take the children down to play after the Children's Message, please contact me. Even if it is just for one Sunday, it would be appreciated. I am making the schedule for September 2017 through January 2018 & will distribute them the Sunday after Labor Day.



Bible Study/book reading groups should be starting up once again as well. Pastor Paul leads a men's group & in the past, Emily Schroeder has hosted a women's group. If you are interested in participating in either of these, please see myself, Pastor Paul, or Emily.

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



Communications & Outreach:

We have had a busy summer! The church flyers have been mailed to everyone in China. I want to express my thanks for everyone who helped on this project.

The crafters of the church have had a meeting at least once a month working on items for our church craft fair in October. I want to let the church membership know that we have 10 tables left to rent for the fair; we are charging \$10 a table. If anyone is interested in renting, please let me know. My home number is 462-2175. I cannot take calls at work, but I will definitely respond to any voicemails I get.



I believe that we have done well on the silent auction items at our church suppers. Thank you very much to all of the church members who have donated items for us to auction. That is the great thing about our church: everyone seems to pitch in wherever they can help. In working together, we seem to get things done. - Yours in Christ, Debbie Stowe, Chair

Worship Committee:

We were so fortunate to have Ian [Maxwell] provide music for our Sunday services one last time [August 13] before he heads off to college. It has been wonderful to have him cover during Chris's vacation days. I am sure there will be occasions when he is able to substitute when he is home on vacations, but we do need to look at other options for Sundays when we need a substitute & Ian is away. Who out there plays the keyboard/piano? Anyone willing to help out? Please let me know.



Until July, it had been some time since we had done a "congregation's choice" for one of our hymns. It really had slipped my mind that we used to do that on occasion. A number of people told me that they enjoyed the choice &

it's so nice to have everyone get a chance to hear at least part of their favorites. We will definitely be doing this more frequently, perhaps once every month or two, so be thinking about what you would like to hear! You will have a chance to make your request.

Do the hymn numbers on the board look just a bit sharper to you? The old numbers were getting quite worn & have been replaced.

Many thanks to those who have provided flowers throughout the summer – they do beautify our sanctuary. I am very thankful to Marge for overseeing & often providing the flowers. - In Christian Love, Cheryl Baker, Elder of Worship

Finance & Stewardship:

Many churches across the country are facing decreasing membership & increasing median age. South China Community Church (SCCC) is no different. The challenge we face as we plan for our long-term future is to increase our membership & bring new energy & ideas into the congregation.

We recently sent out a mailer to all 1,840 mailbox holders in the Town of China; the cost of the mailers was paid entirely through contributions from two church members. For 39¢ each (less than the cost of a first-class stamp), the mailers were designed, printed & mailed out, with an additional 250 mailers available at church for distribution.



Our monetary assets presently total approximately \$96,800. This year's budgeted offering income of \$53,555 is by far our largest source of revenue. The good news is that we have not had to take money from the Memorial Fund to pay operating expenses since February. The bad news is that as of August 6th, our collections are at 81% of where they should be, leaving a \$6,684 shortfall. Our members are incredibly generous, but if our congregation is to survive & thrive in the long-term, we must increase our revenue by increasing our membership.

Approximately 85% of our monetary assets are invested in three guaranteed annuities, purchased this past April. They continue to grow & generate interest (\$612.10 in interest in less than 3½ months).

Thank you all for your generosity. We will continue to do our best to operate as efficiently & effectively as possible, as well as maintain & increase the church's financial stability. – *Respectfully, Finance Chair, John Glowa*



Web Sites to Check Out!

www.guideposts.org/mhayden to check out Michael Hayden of Cherryfield, ME. See how the Elmina B. Sewell Foundation's grant helped him establish an "Incredible Edible" garden in Milbridge, which provides fresh produce for local school children.

www.facebook.com/operationdeployourdress for information about donating formal wear & accessories for those serving in our military.

If you are the friend or family member of someone who is being abused, see www.ncadv.org/learn-more/friends-and-family for a list of ways to offer support.

Many thanks to Russell Poulin, who has kindly offered to update & manage our SCCC web site! Stay tuned for construction on the "History" section & more photos of members & church activities.



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



George Kelley (6/20/17)
Steve Glowa (7/26/17)
Don Nichols (7/29/17)

Words of Wisdom....to Consider

"Give yourself the same compassion you extend to others." – Bonnie Raitt, Singer

"When fear knocks, let faith answer the door." – Robin Roberts, *Good Morning America* anchor

"There is no such thing as too late in life." – Professor Morrie Schwartz from the book by Mitch Albom, *Tuesdays With Morrie*

"Life isn't always about finding yourself. More often than not, it's about discovering who God created you to be." – David White, Author/Producer

"The holes in your life that have made you feel most empty were created to be filled with the knowledge of God." – Sarah Jakes Roberts, Author

"Pray is a 4-letter word you can use anywhere." - Sign at church in Fremont, Indiana

"There is no Wi-Fi in the forest, but I promise you will find a better connection." – Message seen on Pinterest



- † ADULT BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9AM
BEGINS SEPT. 10
- † CHURCH SERVICE, 10AM
- † COMMUNION: SEPT 3 - OCT 1 - NOV 5
- † MEN'S STUDY GROUP: 6:30PM, 2ND & 4TH
TUESDAYS: SEPT 12 & 26 - OCT 10 & 24 - NOV
14 & 28
- † CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS: 6:30PM, 2ND
WEDNESDAY: SEPT 13 - OCT 11 - NOV 8
- † SEPT 22: SET-UP FOR TURKEY PIE SUPPER, 9AM
- † SEPT 23: TURKEY PIE SUPPER, 5-6:30PM,
(DEBBIE STOWE, CHAIR)
- † OCT 7: CRAFT FAIR, 9AM-3PM
- † OCT 27: SET-UP FOR TURKEY PIE SUPPER, 9AM
- † OCT 28: TURKEY PIE SUPPER, 5-6:30PM
(GLENNA JORDAN, CHAIR)
- † OCT 29, 5TH SUNDAY: PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY
FUND DONATIONS (PDF SUNDAY)
- † OCT 29, TENTATIVE DATE FOR HALLOWEEN
PARTY AFTER CHURCH SERVICE
- † **NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: NOV 12, 2017**



On the Lighter Side:

I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older. Then it dawned on me: they were cramming for their finals.

Birds of a feather flock together... and then crap on your car.

The easiest way to find something lost around the house? Buy a replacement.

Did you ever notice when you put the two words 'The' and 'IRS' together it spells 'Theirs...?'

Some people try to turn back their "odometers." Not me. I want people to know why I look this way... I've travelled a long way and some of the roads weren't paved.



REMINDER: If you take your recyclable bottles to TAM's Redemption Center on Rte 3 in South China & let the staff know they're for our church, the refund amount will be sent directly to SCCC. Since this program was initiated a few years ago, hundreds of dollars have helped support our children's programs. Small change adds up to big dollars!

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“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”

- Isaiah 41:10

