
SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH



Rev. Paul Harwath, Pastor

Feb/March 2018

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Well, spring is here.... or is it? I still have two feet of snow in my front yard. I don't feel as if spring is here. Sometimes we hear the Good News of Jesus on Sunday, but the noise in our lives keeps us from experiencing God's Love. It only takes a kind word or a caring gesture to turn someone's cold outlook into a sunny new day. God gives us the ability to lift the spirit of those around us. This is a great responsibility.



Unfortunately, the opposite is true. It is all too easy to kill a person's spirit. Somehow it has become acceptable to treat someone you disagree with or someone you dislike with hostility. The hardest commandment to keep is "To love thy neighbor." If we are able to do only this, it would change the world! Let's turn someone's winter to spring. - *God's & my love to all of you, Pastor Paul*



CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

Proverbs 21:3

To do righteousness and justice is desired by the Lord more than sacrifice.

The Council has been meeting on a monthly basis to discuss the finances, Christian education, worship, missions & benevolence,

building maintenance, fundraising, & by-law review.

In an effort to get the word out & bring more people to see what our church does, we are still looking to schedule events like Pastor Paul's bow-making, concerts (one has been paid for by an anonymous donor already), a craft fair in October, traditional turkey pie suppers, a new bean supper, etc. If anyone has any ideas about skills they could teach some night or additional fundraising ideas, please speak to someone on the Council or attend one of our meetings. They are usually held the second Wednesday of every month at 6:00 PM. Please text me at (207) 458-0283 to get added to the agenda. Please do not email me -- I get too many & tend to miss some.

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:

I want to extend another "thank-you" for your tremendous participation in our Christmas Outreach & to Jack & Marge for preparing the Family Listing for gifts. In addition to the two families we had been assisting throughout the year, Pastor Paul received requests from other

families; we ultimately provided *eight families* with Christmas gifts! A new record for our Christmas Outreach.

We also posted the Wish List from the Homeless Shelter & your generous response allowed us to deliver several boxes of gifts to the Augusta & Waterville shelters before Christmas.

Currently we are not actively assisting any families as the young man in Family #1 will graduate from High School in June & Family #2 has moved to East Vassalboro. Due to these changes & because we now refer food requests to the China Food Pantry, our Benevolence Committee members voted to make a \$25.00 monthly contribution to the pantry. Lois Rogers, who is a member of the Benevolence Committee & also volunteers at the China Food Pantry, recently called our attention to a need for good condition blankets as well as fresh carrots & onions. Thanks for your continued response to this request.



Just another reminder to please support PDF (Pastor's Discretionary Fund) offerings on the months that have a 5th Sunday (next is April 29th) as this enables Pastor Paul to meet the smaller emergency requests he receives without having to ask the congregation for special donations. Some of the aid requests he has mentioned this year are emergency fuel assistance to a family we helped at Christmas, motel assistance to a family who lost their home to fire & an individual who needed a mattress. Thanks to those who donated to these urgent requests, with special thanks to the individual who made the \$500 December donation that allowed Pastor Paul to meet these appeals for help. He probably has done other good deeds we don't know about!



Thanks to the Outreach ladies who made the Valentine's candy with the proceeds (\$96.20) going to PDF. It was delicious, so I hope they make Easter candy!

Good news! We are pleased to welcome Lindsey Harwath as a new member of the Benevolence Committee. It's so good to see our younger people taking an active part in the work of our Church.

Please let me or Pastor Paul know of anyone needing emergency assistance. Thanks again for your sharing & caring & "God Bless." - *Glenna Jordan, Deacon/ Benevolence Chair*



Building & Grounds:

Spring is delayed, but the outside is calling! Soon we will be scheduling an outside/inside work day to spring clean & get the grounds ready for summer. Painting the ramps/stairs & wood trim, resetting the ramp, & fixing the steeple corner are some of the things that occur to me to do.

As always, please feel free to donate time, buckets of paint, building supplies, strong relatives to help, etc., as well as suggestions about what you think the building needs. When winter finally lets us alone, I will call for assistance on a specific time & we can have a day or afternoon of work as worship!

As the building ages, things will change inside & out. Thank you for your patience & trust as repairs are made that may change our building & grounds but are necessary for our work to continue. - *Ron Maxwell, Chair*

Christian Education:

Psalm 27:11

Teach me Your way, O Lord; lead me in a straight path...

Sunday School is going well. We have, on average, six children attending & most recently, started having seven. The children will continue to listen to scriptures, Bible stories, & do activities relating to the message that Pastor Paul did the week before or will be

doing that Sunday. The children are currently learning about Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, & Easter through readings & activities.

The puppet show is on the back-burner. We are still looking to do it, but need to have puppets & props made, learn the scripts, & have the children all healthy in order to attend each week. Maybe the puppets could be made over the summer? If you have these talents, please come see me.



Our last Sunday School class will be on June 17, 2018 for the summer & will resume on September 9. I say that now, because time seems to fly by so fast!

Ron & I have talked about rearranging things down in the Sunday School rooms. There are some filing cabinets that will be cleaned out & put into the main Sunday School room for supplies & books relating to Sunday School activities. Many items have been purchased for the Sunday School lessons. The one room that I haven't used for Sunday School will become the office.

Child Care has gone rather well. We are still looking for a person to come in each week but have not had anyone come forward. Most of the volunteers are still coming in to cover until that time comes. It's God's will & if He feels it is needed, He will provide.



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:

We have started the year on a productive & fun note: the group has had its first candy making day. We had a good turn-out with new members. We made \$96.20 that went to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund. We will be

meeting on Saturday March 24 to make Easter candy to sell on the 25th, the profits again going to the PDF. On Thursday March 29, from 1-4PM, we will make candy & snacks for the church Easter egg hunt being held March 31. Beth Preston needs help with candy & volunteers, so please let her know if you can help!

Coming up on April 28th is a baked bean/hot dog public supper. As the silent auction items seem to be a hit, I would like to ask if anyone wants to either bake a pie and/or donate new items for the auction? Anything you wish to contribute would be appreciated. Hand-made items are always gratefully received. Many hands make light work, plus we have fun!

I am very pleased to announce that the Outreach Committee will start a new project this summer. Ian Maxwell has volunteered to play music once a week at hospitals, nursing homes & other facilities as an outreach program for the church. We are blessed to have someone so young be willing to share his talent & support our church in this manner.

I look forward to a fun & productive summer for our church. - *Yours in Christ, Debbie Stowe, Chair*



Worship Committee:

I hope that the music we choose each week enhances the worship service for you. Are you enjoying the "congregation's choice" weeks? Those are a regular feature now. I often hear that we do not sing enough of the old hymns, or that we do not sing enough new hymns. I am hoping the choice weeks give everyone an opportunity to hear their favorites. There are many wonderful Easter hymns & I am looking forward to enjoying those for several weeks. Please feel free to request a hymn! If it is not in our hymn book, it may be possible to get the music for it & add it to our Special Songs Book.

We are in "Year B" of the 3-year Revised Common Lectionary cycle. This year primarily features Gospel readings from the Book of Mark. Some passages are also taken each year from John, especially during the Easter & Christmas seasons. Because Mark is shorter than the other Gospels, more passages from John are used in the year of Mark. This church year began at the start of Advent 2017 & continues until the start of Advent 2018.

Bulletins can be sponsored for \$25/month. A remembrance or dedication will be included in the bulletin each week for that month. This year has filled up quite quickly, but we still have the months of September, October & November available. The sign-up sheet is on the literature table in Memorial Hall.

I am starting my second term as Elder of Worship. Even after serving three years, I am still learning what this position requires! Thank you all for your patience, guidance, suggestions & support! - *In Christian Love, Cheryl Baker, Elder of Worship*



Finance & Stewardship:

The proposed budget for 2018 was approved at the annual meeting in January. Our three annuities continue to increase in value & barring any unforeseen circumstances or unexpected expenses, our financial situation should remain stable. Other than the annual budget process, the church has no long-range planning process for future major capital expenditures such as a new roof, belfry, septic system or site/parking expansion. Such a planning process could help the church by budgeting for preventative maintenance rather than the expensive, after-the-fact repairs. – *Respectfully, Finance Chair, John Glowa*



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

Diane Rawson's dad, John Hovestadt (1/8/18)



(From: <https://www.almanac.com/>)

What Does the March/Vernal Equinox Mean?

Equinox comes from two Latin words which literally mean "equal night" - *aequus* (equal) and *nox* (night).

On the equinox, the length of day and night is nearly equal in all parts of the world.

Is the First Day of Spring Always March 20?

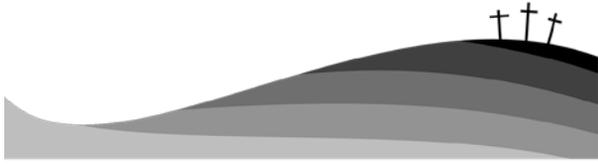
Astronomically speaking, the first day of spring is marked by the spring equinox, which falls on **March 19, 20, or 21** every year. The equinox happens at the same moment worldwide, though clock times reflect different time zones. This date only signals the beginning of spring in the Northern Hemisphere; it announces fall's arrival in the Southern Hemisphere.

Which Day Has the Most Sunlight in North America?

The Summer or June Solstice is called the "longest" day of the year; it varies between June 20 and June 22, depending on the year and local time zone. By "longest day," we mean the day that gets the most daylight.

Did you know that the increasing sunlight is what triggers birds to sing?





"The great gift of Easter is hope - Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in His ultimate triumph, and in His goodness and love, which nothing can shake." - *Basil C Hume, (1923-1999) Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster*

"I am the resurrection and the life. Anyone who believes in me will live, even after dying. Everyone who lives in me and believes in me will never ever die." -
- *John 11:25-26 (NLT)*



A Prayer for Easter Sunday

Lord God,
 You loved this world so much,
 That you gave your one and only Son,
 That we might be called your children too.
 Lord, help us to live in the gladness and
 grace
 Of Easter Sunday, every day.
 Let us have hearts of thankfulness
 For your sacrifice.
 Let us have eyes that look upon
 Your grace and rejoice in our salvation.
 Help us to walk in that mighty grace
 And tell your good news to the world.
 All for your glory do we pray, Lord,
 Amen
 ~ *Rachel Marie Stone*



The **Easter lily** is the traditional flower of this season and is regarded as a symbol of joy, elegance, beauty, spirituality, hope, and life. In Christendom, it has come to symbolize the resurrection of Jesus because of its delicate form and its snow-white color. But have you ever wondered about the history and significance of this symbolic flower, which adds elegance, grace and fragrance to millions of homes and churches during the spring time?

The **snowy-white color** stands for the purity of the Divine Savior and the joy of the resurrection, while the **trumpet shape** signifies Gabriel's trumpet call to rebirth and new life.

The flower **bulbs** buried in the ground represent the tomb of Jesus and the white trumpet-like fragrant **blossoms** which grow from the bulbs symbolize His life after death. (From: <http://www.dgreetings.com/easter/easter-lily-history.html>)

Often called "white-robed apostles of hope," lilies were found growing in the Garden of Gethsemane after Christ's agony. Tradition has it that beautiful white lilies sprang up where drops of Jesus's sweat fell to the ground in his final hours of sorrow and deep distress. Churches maintain this tradition at Easter time by surrounding their altars and crosses with masses of lilies to commemorate the resurrection of Jesus Christ and hope of life everlasting.



The pure white lily has also been associated with the Virgin Mary. In early paintings, the Angel Gabriel is depicted extending a branch

of white lilies to Mary, announcing she is to be the mother of the Christ Child. In other paintings, saints are shown bringing vases of white lilies to Mary and the infant Jesus. Joseph is depicted holding a lily-branch in his hand, indicating that his wife Mary was a virgin.

Legend tells that when the Virgin Mary's tomb was visited three days after her burial, it was found empty except for lilies. Early writers and artists note the pure white petals signify her spotless body and the golden anthers her soul glowing with heavenly light.

A white lily has been a mark of purity and grace throughout the ages and is a fitting symbol of the greater meaning of Easter. Whether in churches or homes, the Easter lily represents joy, hope and life and serves as a beautiful reminder that Easter is a time for rejoicing and celebrating. (From: <http://www.appleseeds.org/easter-lily.htm>)



Easter morn with lilies fair
 Fills the church with perfumes rare,
 As their clouds of incense rise,
 Sweetest offerings to the skies.
 Stately lilies pure and white
 Flooding darkness with their light,
 Bloom and sorrow drifts away,
 On this holy hallow'd day.
 Easter Lilies bending low
 in the golden afterglow,
 Bear a message from the sod
 To the heavenly towers of God.

- Louise Lewin Matthews



- ✝ ADULT BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9AM
CHURCH SERVICE, 10AM
- ✝ COMMUNION: APRIL 1 - MAY 6 - JUNE 3
- ✝ CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS: 6PM, 2ND
WEDNESDAY: APRIL 11 - MAY 9 - JUNE 13
- ✝ MARCH 25 - PALM SUNDAY
- ✝ MARCH 29 - EASTER CANDY MAKING 1-4PM +
MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE, 7PM
- ✝ MARCH 30 - GOOD FRIDAY, STATIONS OF THE
CROSS, 6PM
- ✝ MARCH 31 - SUNDAY SCHOOL EASTER PARTY/
EVENT, 2-3:30PM
- ✝ APRIL 1 - EASTER SUNDAY
- ✝ APRIL 25 - 9:15AM, SET UP FOR CHURCH SUPPER
- ✝ APRIL 28 - BAKED BEAN & HOT DOG SUPPER, 5-
6:30PM (JOHN GLOWA, CHAIR)
- ✝ APRIL 29, 5TH SUNDAY - PDF DONATIONS +
COMPASSION PRESENTATION AT FELLOWSHIP
- ✝ MAY 13 - MOTHER'S DAY
- ✝ MAY 22 - LUKE HARWATH'S KOSOVO FILM AT
RAILROAD SQUARE, 7:15PM
- ✝ MAY 24 - 9AM, SET UP FOR CHURCH SUPPER
- ✝ MAY 26 - TURKEY PIE SUPPER, 5-6:30 (GLENNA
JORDAN, CHAIR)
- ✝ MAY 28 - MEMORIAL DAY
- ✝ **NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: MAY 13, 2018**



On the Lighter Side...

Her: I need to get in shape. I'm going to try lunges.

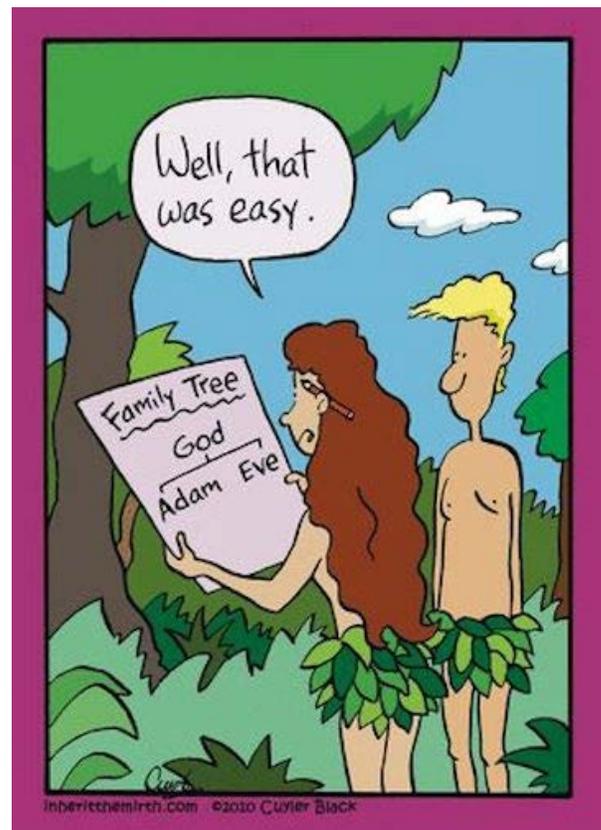
Him: Well, that's a big step forward.

Q: What nation's capital is growing the fastest?

A: Ireland's. It's Dublin every year.

- ❖ The fattest knight at King Arthur's round table was Sir Cumference. He acquired his size from eating too much pi.
- ❖ I thought I saw an eye doctor on an Alaskan island, but it turned out to be an optical Aleutian.
- ❖ No matter how much you push the envelope, it'll still be stationary.
- ❖ A dog gave birth to puppies near the road and was cited for littering.
- ❖ Two silk worms had a race. They ended up in a tie.
- ❖ A vulture carrying two dead raccoons boards an airplane. The stewardess looks at him and says, 'I'm sorry, sir, only one carrion allowed per passenger'.
- ❖ A geologist exploring an earthquake fell to his death through no fault of his own.

- ❖ Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire in the craft. Unsurprisingly it sank, proving once again that you can't have your kayak and heat it too.
- ❖ Did you hear about the Buddhist who refused Novocain during a root canal? His goal: transcendental medication.
- ❖ Then there was the person who sent ten puns to friends, with the hope that at least one of the puns would make them laugh. No pun in ten did.



Spring is when you feel like whistling even with a shoe full of slush. —Doug Larson

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*“Die when I may, I want it said
of me that I plucked a weed and
planted a flower wherever I
thought a flower would grow.”*
- President Abraham Lincoln

