
SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH



Rev. Paul Harwath, Pastor

Autumn/Winter 2018

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Advent is here! It is a time for getting ready for the coming of our Lord! We are to prepare our hearts, lives & all that we do.



Some of us like to listen to Christmas songs nonstop. Some like to watch sappy movies. Others volunteer or bake treats. Some like decorating & planning family get-togethers. Some of us do a lot of traveling. The list is endless. If any of this centers our hearts & thoughts on God & how He wishes & calls us to His service, then it is a good thing. Keep doing it. Don't let anyone tell you differently.

If what we do at this time of year, however, distracts us from listening to the Holy Spirit, then it is a bad thing. Stop doing it.

So be as sappy & decoration crazy as you like. If it brings you closer to God & those He loves, you are surely blessed. - *God's & my love to all of you, Pastor Paul*



CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

President's Report:

Greetings and God bless!

1 Thessalonians 5:11 *Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.*

The Council continues to meet monthly to discuss church finances, Christian education, worship, missions/benevolence, maintenance, fundraising events, & by-laws review. We did, however, have to cancel last month's meeting due to scheduling conflicts.

We are currently working on the preliminary budget & hope to have something ready for the congregational members to look at soon. *Right Now Media* has been added under Christian Education even though it covers all areas, so expect a large increase on that budget line.



Council meetings are usually held the second Wednesday of every month at 6PM. If you have any comments, concerns, announcements for upcoming events or suggestions

for fundraising activities, please text me at (207) 458-0283 to get added to the agenda. Please do not email me as I get too many & tend to miss some. - *In Christian Love, Paula Kimball-Vigue, President*

Joshua

1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."



Missions & Benevolence:

Because we now refer new requests for food to the China Food Pantry, our Benevolence Committee continues to make a \$25 monthly contribution to the pantry. Lois Rogers, who is a member of the Benevolence Committee & also volunteers at the China Food Pantry, reminds us that there is an urgent need for canned soup & the continued need for fresh carrots, onions and plastic bags of any size. Thanks to those who have responded to this need. As we did last year, the Benevolence Committee voted to send the China Food Pantry a \$100 check to help with the Thanksgiving baskets that are provided to China families.



Feeding the Community

I'm including my usual reminder to please support PDF (**P**astor's **D**iscretionary **F**und) offerings on the months that have a Fifth Sunday (next is December 30th) as this enables Pastor Paul to meet the smaller emergency requests that he receives without asking the congregation for special donations.

Some of the aid requests he has mentioned since our last newsletter are helping Arlene McDonald (our elderly friend in Albion) with a \$200 donation towards the cost of her electric wheelchair, helping a woman with her electric bill so her power would not be shut off & helping a man with the funds to supplement his own funds for the minimum oil delivery.

Thanks to any who supported the PDF donations that allowed Pastor Paul to meet these requests & please note that donations to PDF may be made at any time. There are probably other good deeds Pastor Paul has done that we don't know about!

Another special thank you to the Outreach ladies who made the candy for PDF donations at our Turkey Pie suppers.

Rosie Feihel, a member of the Benevolence Committee, reminds us that the Mid-Maine Homeless Shelter is in need of donations of toilet paper, paper napkins & paper towels. I

have made a delivery & thank those who have responded to this request.

Last, but not least, we will be asking for your help in providing Christmas gifts for any families that are referred to us by Pastor Paul.

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



Thank You, LORD!

Building & Grounds:

The summer has come & gone & reflecting on what was done for the building seems in order. The "porch" off Memorial Hall was reset & the stairs fixed so that the porch is now level & true. The ramp to Memorial Hall was leveled & fixed so that it no longer leans. The end of the ramp was replaced so that it meets with the blacktop & can be used safely. The blacktop at the end of the ramp was also patched & leveled in the process so the end of the ramp & the blacktop should stay together.

The railings on the front porch were tightened to make them steadier & the process of replacing them has begun. The side of the belfry that was a major problem was fixed & the roof has since stopped leaking. There was a storm that blew some water in since the fix, so there is another spot on the belfry that is vulnerable in unusual conditions & that is being addressed.

It hardly seems possible, but it is time again to think about last pruning of bushes & raking



of leaves. This is an annual job that gives me an opportunity for reflection & an excuse to wander around & get in some much needed outside time; if you would like to join

or have an expert hand, you can let me know you'd like to help at room21@outlook.com.

Inside the building, the care taken by our new sexton shows in many ways. The carpets are being shampoo'd & the rooms are showing a new life. I am constantly grateful for her care when I enter the Sanctuary & find it the sort of tidy that shows her attention to detail. I have placed my email on the refrigerators so that anyone that finds something that has been overlooked can let me know - there is a device in my pocket that calls my attention to emails so I will receive any messages you choose to send whenever I am in a network... which, thanks to school & home & various hot spots around town, is frequently. Phones are less accessible to me, so thanks to all of you for using the email if that is more difficult.



Future plans are being made regularly & foremost of those is removal & replacement of the drop ceiling in Memorial Hall. The Meader Fund gives a sum of money every year to Buildings & Grounds & my plan for this year's sum is dealing with the ceiling that shows & insulating/refinishing the ceiling that it hides. New lights will replace the outdated & the result will transform the area just outside the Sanctuary. I will also resurface & restain the floor which will finish the job. The job has remained a plan because the belfry work needed to be finalized, but as that is now done (with one small hiccup), the Memorial Hall plan can begin shortly.

As ever, any thoughts, ideas or concerns are welcome so please send them to room21@outlook.com. Thank you for the opportunity to serve & your patience as the work is completed. I am eternally grateful for all of the hands that have made this summer productive & have worked on off days or pitched in when my schedule prevented my direct involvement. Without them, much of what has been done would not have been possible & I am grateful for their support. -
Regards, Ron Maxwell, Chair



Christian Education:

These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up. Deuteronomy. 6:6-7

Sunday School has been going well. Lydia Biswell has been teaching the children & even had a small performance with Peter playing the keyboard & Rachel singing. So far this year, the new friends, Rachel & Sam, have not been attending. We have seven children in total.

We have had two young ladies covering childcare, but have been without coverage for the past month. If someone from the congregation is still willing to cover childcare occasionally, that would be appreciated. It would be a last-minute call, however. It was suggested that we start looking for another young person, but for the past two weeks, the children have been staying during the service & seem to be doing well. As Pastor Paul stated, he would love to have the children stay during service. Maybe we need to look at bringing the children's message back.



If you're willing to be an on-call person, please see me directly or text me at (207) 458-0283. Christian Education is simply teaching others about Jesus Christ and His will for our lives. -
In Christian Love, Paula Kimball-Vigue, Elder of Christian Education



"We all know those people who love to stir the pot. Be the one to close the lid."
 - Molly Sims, Actress/Model

Communications & Outreach:

We have been blessed & busy! The final Turkey Pie Supper/Silent Auction for the year was held in October. I need to thank everyone who provided items for all the auctions; the auction table was a plus for the church. It was great to see folks enjoy items they won.

The craft fair was a success, thanks again to the folks who donated items & worked on the fair. We are truly blessed to have so many willing hands. If you were at the fair, you probably heard my nephew loudly proclaim that he couldn't buy any more as Auntie was broke! Only the young have the knack to be embarrassing to Aunts & not realize it (good thing I love him). Oh well, it made the vendors laugh!



We had items left over from the fair & one of the vendors was gracious enough to let us know about getting a spot at Togus to display

our items. So, if anyone is out & about on November 16th or 30th, come see the display at Togus. Anyone who wants to help sell or just sit a while & keep us company is welcome!

We are gearing up for Christmas. We hope to provide Christmas bowls of greens for folks to bring to people who can't get out. So, if you have any small rose bowls that you don't want, we would appreciate them. - *Yours in Christ, Debbie Stowe, Chair*

Worship Committee:

The Season of Advent is at hand, beginning December 2 -- time to decorate our lovely church for the season & to sing our favorite Christmas music each week! It's also the beginning of the church year & this year is "Year C" in the Revised Common Lectionary. Gospel readings will be centered mainly on the Gospel of Luke, along with some readings from John. Because the Lectionary is a three-year cycle, readings from John are included in each of the three years, particularly around Lent and Easter. As



many of you know, in addition to the reading from the Gospels, each week we hear a passage from the Old Testament, a passage from Psalms & another from the Epistles or Book of Revelation.

We were very fortunate to have Diane fill in for us during Chris's recent vacation absences. I think we all enjoyed & appreciated the music she provided. "Choice" has been a great way to let everyone hear their favorite hymns; we will continue to do that every month or so. As you may have noticed, once in a while I like to try a new hymn, but I know it is more difficult to sing when the song is not familiar. A new hymn I particularly love, recently included in our service, was "More Like You." We first heard this at the Ernie Couch concert held here in August & he gave permission for us to use it in our services. Some new music choices work out better than others. I think we have found a few nice hymns that we will do again, but I admit a few will probably not be repeated. Thanks for your patience & always feel free to offer suggestions or give your opinions about the music.

It would be great to have more people participate in choir – I know there are many out there with beautiful voices. Practice is immediately prior to the service on Sunday morning. Please consider joining the choir & using your talent to praise God through song.



Soon I will be making a new list for Scripture readers for the first half of 2019. If you feel called to participate in this part of the service, please let me know as soon as possible. Also, don't forget there are sign-up sheets in Memorial Hall for flowers, greeters & bulletin sponsors. It is so very helpful if you sign up in advance so that we know these important services will be provided. Thank you to all who use their talents & gifts to support our worship service. I truly appreciate all your contributions. - *In Christian Love, Cheryl Baker, Elder of Worship*



Finance & Stewardship:

Thank you all for your hard work & financial support for SCCC! We remain in a good financial position, although our 2018 revenue is below projections, while our expenses are above: expenditures have exceeded revenues by \$5,675.25. The greatest revenue deficit, as expected, is in Offerings, which are nearly \$3,000 below projections. Our expenses for operations, utilities, communication/outreach, & education have exceeded projections.

Fundraising has also exceeded projections & our success is the result of the hard work & dedication of church members. In the long term, given the loss & absence of members, we'll need more volunteers to help grow our fundraising success.



Our Delaware Life annuities are continuing to grow as a guaranteed source of revenue. Our initial investment in April 2017 has increased by \$3,380.91.

Generally speaking, SCCC is operating frugally. However, if our expenditures continue to outpace our revenue, we will have to come up with new, non-collection sources of revenue in order to survive & thrive in the long term. Thank you all, again! – *Respectfully, Finance Chair, John Glowa*



<http://www.ComposeYourLifeSong.com>

Articles about how to have conversations about your final years (fear of losing loved ones, financial planning, quality end-of-life, etc.)

www.guideposts.org/thanksgivingstress

Practical tips for staying calm, keeping the peace & setting limits



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

- Mary Hanabury (Janet Preston's mom)
- Dorothy Preston (David Preston's mom)
- Holly Johnson (Long-time choir member)

Do you Pray?

I love this interpretation of a Prayer.

What is a prayer? Prayer doesn't only happen when we kneel or put our hands together and focus and expect things from God. Thinking positive and wishing good for others is a prayer. When you hug a friend. That's a prayer. When you cook something to nourish family and friends. That's a prayer. When we send off our near and dear ones and say, 'drive safely' or 'be safe'. That's a prayer. When you are helping someone in need by giving your time and energy. You are praying. When you forgive someone, that is prayer. Prayer is a vibration. A feeling. A thought. Prayer is the voice of love, friendship, genuine relationships. Prayer is an expression of your silent being. Keep praying always...

- (P) Pour out your heart
- (R) Realize God will answer
- (A) Always believe
- (Y) Yield to what God tells you





On the Lighter Side...

Teaching is not for sensitive souls. While reviewing future, past, & present tenses with my English class, I posed this question: "I am beautiful' is what tense?" One student raised her hand. "Past tense." [From Reader's Digest]

A poodle & a collie are walking down the street when the poodle suddenly confides to his friend. "My life is a mess," he says. "My owner is mean, my girlfriend is seeing a German shepherd, & I'm as nervous as a hamster."

"Why don't you go see a psychiatrist," suggested the collie.

"I can't," says the poodle. "I'm not allowed on the couch." [From Reader's Digest]

Patient: "I keep having a dream that I'm a tailpipe. What does it mean?"
Doctor: "You're exhausted."

Ben: "How does your Dad like his new stair lift?"
Jen: "It drives him up the wall."



Q: What's the saddest dog?
A: The melancollie



- † ADULT BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9AM
- † CHURCH SERVICE, 10AM
- † COMMUNION: DEC 2 - JAN 6 - FEB 3 - MARCH 3
- † CHURCH COUNCIL MEETINGS: 6PM, 2ND WED:
DEC 12 - JAN 9 - FEB 13 - MARCH 13
- † DEC 30 & MARCH 31: PDF DONATION SUNDAY
- † NOV 21: THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE, 6PM
- † NOV 22: THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE, 10AM
- † DEC 1: DECORATE SANCTUARY/MEMORIAL HALL
- † DEC 2: ADVENT I
DEC 9: ADVENT II
DEC 16: ADVENT III
DEC 23: ADVENT IV
- † DEC 24: CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, 7PM
- † DEC 25: CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE, 10AM
- † JAN 6: EPIPHANY
- † JAN 12: DE-HANGING OF THE GREENS, 9AM
- † JAN 27: ANNUAL MEETING DURING FELLOWSHIP, NEED 20 FOR QUORUM

"If you love only the people who are like you – who have the same values, the same economic & educational background – you're not really doing much except loving yourself."

- Rev. Rick Reynolds, Director Operation Nightwatch, Seattle

Did You Know....??

- ✚ The name 'Christmas' comes from the Mass of Christ (or Jesus). A Mass service (which is sometimes called Communion or Eucharist) is where Christians remember that Jesus died for us and then came back to life. The 'Christ-Mass' service was the only one that was allowed to take place after sunset and before sunrise the next day, so people had it at Midnight. Thus, we get the name Christ-Mass, shortened to Christmas.
- ✚ No one knows the real birthday of Jesus.
- ✚ The first recorded date of Christmas being celebrated on December 25th was in 336, during the time of the Roman Emperor Constantine, the first Christian Roman Emperor. A few years later, Pope Julius I officially declared that the birth of Jesus would be celebrated on the 25th December.
- ✚ No date is given in the Bible, so why do we celebrate it on the 25th December? A very early Christian tradition said that the day Mary was told she would have a very special baby (called the Annunciation) was on March 25th. Nine months after the 25th of March is the 25th December!
- ✚ Some people think December 25th might have been chosen because the Winter Solstice and ancient pagan Roman midwinter festivals took place in December around this date, so it was a time when people already celebrated things.
- ✚ The Winter Solstice is the day where there is the shortest time between the sun rising and

the sun setting; it happens on December 21st or 22nd. To pagans, this meant that winter was over and spring was coming, so they had a festival to celebrate it and worshipped the sun for winning over the darkness of winter [as Jesus' resurrection "won over" the darkness of Death].

[See <https://www.whychristmas.com/customs/> for more info]



"Bill got me a little space heater...
and the pounds just melted off!"

WIFE: "There's trouble with the car. It has water in the carburetor."

HUSBAND: "Water in the carburetor? That's ridiculous "

WIFE: "I tell you the car has water in the carburetor."

HUSBAND: "You don't even know what a carburetor is. I'll check it out. Where's the car?"

WIFE: "In the pool."

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*“It is not joy that makes us
grateful; it is gratitude that
makes us joyful.”*

- David Steindl-Rast, Benedictine Monk

LET OUR
LIVES BE FULL
OF BOTH
thanks
&
giving