
SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH



Rev. Paul Harwath, Pastor

Spring 2019

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

We are entering the Easter season with warmer weather & new life sprouting through the dead fallen leaves of last fall. This time of year, always lightens the spirit & brings new energy to all. Well, most people find it uplifting.



Some people have things going on in their lives that are not apparent to those around them. Sometimes those closest to them have no idea that they are struggling. As Christians, we need to use the power God gives each one of us to help lift up someone who is having a hard time.

Sometimes that struggle comes out in anger. Returning anger with anger helps no one, but returning anger with a soft voice filled with compassion can make all the difference in the world. If we return sadness with an ear to hear & a smile, we can help a person feel not so alone.

We are celebrating our Lord rising from the dead; let's help others by being there for those around us who feel dead inside. Make no mistake, each of us knows people around us every day who need the Holy Spirit's gift of new life. Let's share the gift shared with us & bring new life to those in need. - *God's & my love to all of you, Pastor Paul*



SCCC's Annual Meeting was held on January 27, 2019. All committee reports & by-law revisions were approved. The proposed budget was also passed, following discussion regarding concerns about our precarious financial situation. [See Finance & Stewardship Report on page 4 of this newsletter.]

Although active membership increased to 53 (from last year's 50), the cultural shift of declining church attendance across the country is evident in our own community. [Gallup polls indicate 40% of Americans report attending church regularly, but more recent research believes that number is actually less than 20%.]

On a happier note, Emily Schroeder was nominated & elected to assume the Chair position of the Christian Education Committee. Meeting minutes are available upon request.

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

President's Report:

I am humbled to have been elected President of the Church Council & also presently remain as Council Secretary. At my age, I'm not sure it is a "good thing" & really comes about by default: First, the resignation of former President Paula Vigue from her Council office due to the demands of her teaching job & furthering her own education. A special "thank-you" to Paula for her time of service. Second, again the demands of teaching as well as family

Thank You

responsibilities, not to mention Building & Grounds Chair responsibilities, kept Ron Maxwell from accepting the position, but he graciously agreed to continue as Vice-President. So here I am & will do the best I can to lead our Council in the business of our Church.

Other returning & much appreciated Council members are John Glowa, Finance Chair; Cheryl Baker, Worship Chair; Debbie Stowe, Communications & Outreach Chair; & we welcome Emily Schroeder as the new Christian Education Chair. Also, special thanks for the time & dedication of our unpaid elected officers - Darlene Zimmerman, Treasurer; Ron Emery, Ass't. Treasurer; & Supporting Volunteers, Janet Preston, Finance Committee Accountant; Jayne Winters, Newsletter Editor; Marge Kurtzman, Hospitality/Church Flowers; Emily Schroeder, Library; & Russell Poulin, Web Master.



Because of various date scheduling issues, the meeting day of the Council has been changed & will usually be the second Tuesday of each month at 6PM. As always, if you have any comments, concerns, announcements for upcoming events or suggestions for fundraising activities, please call me at (207) 861-4134 or email at gbjroadrunner.com.

Since our fundraising events have not yet started, we continue to have less budgeted revenue coming in than our budgeted expenses. In February, we were fortunate to again receive a Charitable Grant of \$2,000 from Anna & Peyton Forbes in Memory of Dorothy (Doffy) Preston & In Appreciation of David & Janet Preston, which was designated to be used for current Church expenses. This gift has been recorded in our Living Memorial record book VI, page 35. Just a reminder that you can make a gift to the Living Memorial Fund, in any amount, to recognize loved ones who have passed or in appreciation of living loved ones or friends. Your gift can be designated for a particular purpose or go into the savings account.

Bring a friend to Church to help us grow & may you enjoy the coming spring. - *Glenna Jordan, President*



Missions & Benevolence:

This year we continue to refer new requests for food to the China Food Pantry & the Benevolence Fund 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, continues to remind us of urgent needs, the most recent for the food drive for children during February vacation. Your generous donations of \$121 allowed Lois, a careful shopper, to purchase 96 packages of Mac & Cheese & 36 cans of soup. There is always a need for canned soup, fresh carrots & onions, & plastic bags of any size. Thanks to those who have responded to this need.

My usual reminder to please support PDF (Pastor's Discretionary Fund) offerings on the months that have a 5th Sunday (6/30, 9/29, 12/29) as this enables Pastor Paul to meet smaller emergency requests that he receives without asking the congregation for special donations.

Most of the aid requests he has received since our last newsletter were for helping folks with fuel expenses. He also helped an elderly couple whose car had broken down with a ride to Hussey's to get groceries & funds to repair their furnace as they had no heat, as well as a woman who had lost both her husband & father-in-law & needed temporary help as she could not file for Social Security for her children during the Federal shutdown. Thanks to any who supported the PDF donations that allowed Pastor Paul to meet these requests. To avoid making the smaller requests to the congregation, the Benevolence Committee has added money in the 2019 budget for PDF. As always, I'm sure there are



other good deeds Pastor Paul has done that we don't know about!

Another special thank you to the Outreach ladies who made the delicious Valentine's candy which netted \$228 in PDF donations. 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, disinfectant wipes & paper towels. The Waterville & Augusta shelters appreciated the many gifts you donated at Christmas time.

Again, 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



Building & Grounds:

Don Pratt is working on the leak in Memorial Hall, which does involve work in the belfry; it will probably require installation of heat tape & some wiring. In checking the hole in the belfry, it was discovered that we have a resident bat living therein! I spoke with Mat Wilkins, who is a certified pest exterminator; bats are a protected species & unless it leaves on its own, there is nothing we can do to remove it until August.

I plan to pull down the suspension ceiling in Memorial Hall so that we can push the ceiling level up, refinish & wire it for new LED lights, but I won't start this project until the leak/belfry issue is resolved. Once the ceiling is redone, I'll also refinish the floor, so we'll have a "new" Memorial Hall for future events & meetings.



I've found LED replacements for our florescent bulbs & will start replacing them, which will eliminate the high energy use of the current bulbs & reduce some electric expense.

The heat problem in the Sanctuary was due to the new programmable thermostat being defective or improperly installed. It has been replaced with a new, non-programmable thermostat set & left at 68 degrees.

Kelly Clark & Erskine students will assist with the spring outside clean-up from 8-11AM on Thursday, May 23. Sheldon will bring his trailer to haul off leaves & brush.

As always, please don't hesitate to let me know of any concerns or ideas regarding the care of our church, inside & out. - *Regards, Ron Maxwell, Chair*



Christian Education:

We continue to be blessed by Lydia Biswell & her great teaching ability. My constant hope is that our congregation will increase & we can involve more young people in Christian education. It's people like Lydia who make a real difference.

On another note, I recently re-shelved many books in our library. We've also had a number of donations - thank you very much! What we need is another bookcase to put them in, so if you've got an extra one at home, or would like to donate towards one, please let me know!



In the near future you'll be seeing a short survey asking about study groups & any other suggestions you might have for expanding our horizons. It's never too late to learn! Thanks so much! - *Blessings to All, Emily Schroeder, Elder of Christian Education*

Communications & Outreach:

We have started the year out with projects! In February, we made Valentine candy with the profits going to the Pastor's PDF fund. In

March, we signed up for a table at the Pooches sale on April 13th at the Armory in Augusta. We are lucky to have talented folks who have donated items for the sale. We also have folks who have designed church flyers for us to distribute at the event. The hope is to get SCCC's name "out there" so that more people can enjoy our worship services & our church family. We are blessed with our membership.

We will be making candy for Easter if anyone is interested in helping; the date will be in the bulletin. We will also be making goodies for the Silent Auction table that we have during the Turkey Pie Suppers. Anyone is welcome to come & have fun with us! If you have any items for the table, we will gladly accept them. Every Turkey Pie Supper we will get together to bake - all are welcome!

If anyone has any ideas on how to promote our Church or fundraiser, please feel free to speak to anyone on the Council. - *Yours in Christ, Debbie Stowe, Chair*



Worship Committee:

Our Pastor has been guiding us through this Lenten season & giving us much to think about with his message each week. During Holy Week, a service will be offered both on Maundy Thursday & Good Friday.

Although I know that Maundy Thursday commemorates Jesus washing the feet of his disciples & sharing the Last Supper, I was curious about the origin of the word "Maundy." I found myself turning to the Internet & that often-forgotten resource, an encyclopedia. It is generally thought that the word is derived through Middle English from the Latin word "mandatum." Our English word "mandate" comes from this Latin word. It is the first word of the phrase "Mandatum novum do vobis ut diligatis invicem sicut dilexi vos"... (A new commandment I give unto you: That you love one another. As I have loved you, also love one another. John 13:34)

Easter begins a new season of the church year: the Easter Season. This extends from Easter to Pentecost, in June. Although we are in Year C of the Common Lectionary & are focusing on Luke, many of the Gospel readings in the Easter season will be from John. There are also many wonderful Easter hymns that we will enjoy both on Easter & in the season afterwards.

Please keep in mind two ways available to honor loved ones & support our church: bulletins may be sponsored for \$25 per month, with a remembrance message printed in the bulletin each week for that month. Many months are still available this year: April, May, July, September & November. Flowers also can be provided for the Sanctuary for a week. This might be a plant from your home, cut flowers from the garden, wildflowers – whatever you can provide. Again, a message of remembrance is printed in the bulletin for that week. Sign-up sheets for both bulletins & flowers are available in Memorial Hall.

I wish you all a joyous Easter! - *In Christian Love, Cheryl Baker, Elder of Worship*



Finance & Stewardship:

Thank you all for your generous financial support of South China Community Church. During our most recent annual meeting, it was suggested that the newsletter contain more detailed financial information in order for the congregation to be better informed about the financial status of the church.

Until recently, SCCC has done a good job of keeping its finances relatively stable. As our congregation ages, as we lose members, & as our expenses increase, this is no longer the case. As I stated at the beginning of the year, unless we increase our revenues, we could run out of money in 5-10 years.



February revenues were \$10,711; expenses were \$10,880 for a difference of **-\$169**. Were it not for a single \$2,000 contribution we would have been **-\$2,169** for just the first 2mos of the year. We can't count on receiving large contributions for our continued existence.

For many years, we've used the proposed weekly offerings revenue to balance the annual budget. As we know, this year's proposed offerings budgeted amount of \$55,906 (~\$1,096/week) is not realistic. The 2019 budget calls for weekly offerings for the 13 Sundays ending March 31, 2019 to total \$14,251. As expected, our total weekly offerings for these weeks were just \$11,902 for a shortfall of **-\$2,349**. This shortfall was



exacerbated by a storm-related closure on Jan. 20, but if this trend continues, our weekly offerings revenue will be almost **-\$10,000** by year's end. This cannot continue indefinitely & the downward revenue trend will only increase unless other revenue sources are found.

We're fortunate to have a financial cushion in the form of our annuity accounts. However, one catastrophic event, such as failure of our septic system, could wipe out this cushion in short order. Our accounts at Delaware Life continue to grow at a guaranteed rate of 2.65%. Hopefully, we will not have to withdraw money from them prior to their maturity in 2022. They include:

Memorial Fund Annuity #1 value \$26,293.52
 Memorial Fund Annuity #2 value \$26,293.52
 Meader Family Fund value.....\$33,474.96
 Total Annuities value.....\$86,062.00
 – Respectfully, Finance Chair, John Glowa



"Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in the books alone, but in every leaf in springtime." - Martin Luther



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

Norval Garnett, Sr. (12/29/18)
 Mary Lemieux (1/3/19)



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

To download a doll pattern for craft projects

Did you know that Martin Luther King, Jr. is the only non-president to have his birthday honored with a federal holiday? See www.guideposts.org/mlklessons for lessons he taught by example.

www.guideposts.org/prayerpath

for seven prayers tips to help you grow closer to God in 2019



In the Christian tradition, Jesus is referred to as the "Paschal Lamb" or "Lamb of God" because his crucifixion echoes the ritual sacrifice of the Passover lamb.

The lamb is commonly used as a symbol for peace, purity and sacrifice. Jesus is described as "shedding His blood to save the world," a "Lamb of God" or "sacrificial lamb," and "without blemish." (From <https://www.reference.com/>)

On the Lighter Side...



She: "Last I saw, you were sitting on your lawn mower, crying your eyes out."

He: "I was just going through a rough patch."

Q: "Are those cowboys still saying they didn't rob the glue factory?"

A: "They're sticking to their guns!"

Q: What is the fibula?

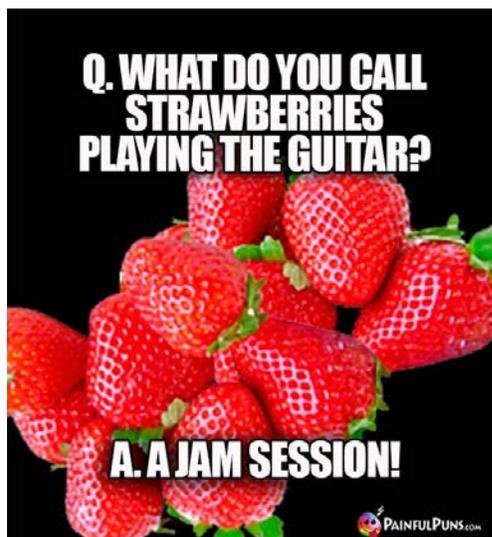
A: A small lie.

Q: What is a terminal illness?

A: When you're sick at the airport.

Q: What does the term 'benign' mean?

A: Benign is what you will be after you be eight.



- † ADULT BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9AM
- † SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICE, 10AM
- † COMMUNION: MAY 5 - JUNE 2 - JULY 7
- † **COUNCIL MEETINGS HAVE BEEN CHANGED TO THE 2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 6PM:**
MAY 14 - JUNE 11 - JULY 9
- † PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND (PDF)
DONATION SUNDAY: JUNE 30
- † AA MEETINGS: MONDAYS, 6-7PM
- † APRIL 13, 1-5PM: PAINT NIGHT (OPEN TO PUBLIC). FOR MORE INFO OR TO PURCHASE A TICKET, CONTACT LORI MILLER ON HER WEBSITE, PAINTINGWITHLORI.COM.
- † APRIL 13: SCCC CRAFT TABLE AT POOCH'S FLEA MARKET, AUGUSTA ARMORY, 10AM-6PM (SEE DEBBIE STOWE FOR MORE INFO)
- † APRIL 14: PALM SUNDAY
- † APRIL 17: SUNDAY SCHOOL EASTER PARTY, 1PM
- † APRIL 18: MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE, 7PM
- † APRIL 19: OUTREACH, 9AM - EASTER CANDY
- † APRIL 19: GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE, 6PM
- † APRIL 21: EASTER SUNDAY + CANDY SALE (PROFITS TO PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND)
- † APRIL 26: SET-UP FOR TURKEY PIE SUPPER, 9AM
- † APRIL 26: OUTREACH, 9AM - NEEDHAMS FOR SALE AT TURKEY PIE SUPPER

- † APRIL 27: TURKEY PIE SUPPER, 5-6:30PM
(DEBBIE STOWE, CHAIR)
- † MAY 12: MOTHERS' DAY
- † MAY 23: OUTSIDE SPRING CLEAN-UP, 8-11AM
- † MAY 24: SET UP FOR TURKEY PIE SUPPER, 9AM
(NEED HELP - CHERYL BAKER AWAY)
- † MAY 25: TURKEY PIE SUPPER, 5-6:30PM
(GLENNA JORDAN, CHAIR)
- † MAY 27: MEMORIAL DAY
- † JUNE 14: FLAG DAY
- † JUNE 16: FATHERS' DAY
- † JULY 4: INDEPENDENCE DAY



Genesis 1:26 -- *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.*

Earth Day is an annual event celebrated on April 22. Interestingly, the day also coincides with the birth of noted conservationist, John Muir. First celebrated in 1970, Earth Day now includes events in more than 193 countries, coordinated globally by the Earth Day Network. Numerous communities celebrate **Earth Week**, an entire week of activities focused on the environmental issues that the world faces.



“HOME OF THE FREE,
BECAUSE OF THE BRAVE.”
(-UNKNOWN)

On January 28, 1969, a well drilled by Union Oil off the coast of Santa Barbara, CA blew out. More than three million gallons of oil spewed, killing over 10,000 seabirds, dolphins, seals, & sea lions. As a reaction to this disaster, which left an 800 square-mile oil slick, activists mobilized to create environmental regulation, environmental education, & Earth Day.

The National Environmental Policy Act, the first of many new environmental protection laws sparked by the national outcry about the oil spill, went into effect January 1, 1970 & for the first time established national policies & goals for the protection of the environment.

Whether or not you're a “tree-hugger” it's clear in Genesis & other Biblical passages that God created & entrusted His Earth to us for its care.



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“Therefore encourage one another and build up one another, just as you also are doing.” - 1 Thessalonians 5:11

