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# SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH



Rev. Paul Harwath, Pastor

Summer 2019

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## **PASTOR'S MESSAGE**

Well, it's that time of year again... The kids are heading back to school & soon the ducks will be heading south. We hate to have the warm days come to an end.



If you find yourself getting a little bit down in the dumps, just think about the love of God given to us by our Savior Jesus Christ. That love is like a warm summer day that reaches right through our bodies & into our hearts. If we are filled with that love, we will shine so brightly on those around us, filling our loved ones with God's warmth & love. This gives us the ability to become warm summer days to the people around us, even in the dead of winter. Yes, you have the power to change any day from dark to light, from cold to warm, or from sad to happy.

That's what a Christian does, that's what God does for us. We just need to grasp that love & share it. - *God's love and mine, Pastor Paul*



## **CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS**

### **President's Report:**

The Church Council continues to meet the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 6PM; as always, if you have any comments, concerns, announcements for upcoming events or suggestions for fundraising activities, you are

invited to attend our meetings, call me at 207-861-4134 or e-mail me at [gbradrunner.com](mailto:gbradrunner.com).

In addition to the monthly reports by each Committee Chair, we continue the process of reviewing the By-Laws & should have them completed before year-end for your review & comments. Due to my advancing age, part of our review has included the forms & documents I continued to handle after resigning as Church Secretary & re-assigning them to various Committee Chairs. Some of this has been accomplished, but further discussions & decisions remain.

Our fundraising events have resumed & been very successful. Although we continue to have less budgeted revenue coming in than our budgeted expenses, we still have several fundraisers ahead of us. Your support of these events is appreciated.

*"Church Family"* - what does this mean to you? I know my Church Family is a source of religious development, friendship, & joy, as well as comfort & support in times of trial.

Sunday, August 18 brought to mind another word I should add for consideration: *"dependability."* Pastor Paul reached David & Janet while on their way to church to let them know he was quite ill with possible food poisoning & asked if someone could lead the service. Cheryl, our Worship Chair, was enjoying a Sunday off as her out-of-state sister was visiting, so I said I would call our Elders to see who was available. The call to Ron Maxwell (Vice-President & Elder) went directly to Voice Mail, so I quickly called Jack Kurtzman, who immediately agreed to lead our worship service. Jack, despite such short notice, had a very meaningful & moving message, causing a few tears to be shed. I gratefully appreciate & acknowledge his *"dependability."*

Please think about bringing a friend to church to help us all grow! May you enjoy the coming fall. - *Glenna Jordan, President*



### **Missions & Benevolence:**

We continue to refer new requests for food to the China Food Pantry & the Benevolence Fund continues to make its \$25 monthly contribution as well. 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 being for plastic bags of any size so they can build up a supply ahead of the new law which will restrict the use of plastic bags at most stores. Again, thanks to those who have responded to this need.

In July, we had a Peanut Butter & Jelly Drive for which we had tremendous response. We collected enough to give 18 jars of peanut butter & 18 jars of jelly to the China School for their summer lunch program & a like amount to the China Food Pantry to help with children's lunches. Thanks to all who helped make this a success.



In August, we are collecting school supplies for the China schools. These can be left in the container in the entry. Please bring a few things so we can help needy children have a better start to their school year.

I include my usual reminder to please support PDF (**P**astor's **D**iscretionary **F**und) offerings on the months that have a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday (9/29 & 12/29), as this enables Pastor Paul to meet the smaller emergency requests that he receives without having to ask the congregation for special donations. The aid requests he has received since our last newsletter were for helping folks with rent, fuel & electric expenses. Thanks to any who

supported the PDF donations that allowed him to meet these requests. Again, please let Pastor Paul or me know of anyone needing emergency assistance.

Another special thank-you to Debbie Stowe, who makes the delicious Needhams for our Turkey Pie suppers, with the donations going to the PDF.

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



### **Building & Grounds:**

Many thanks to Sheldon, Kelly Clark & the Erskine volunteers for helping with grounds clean-up earlier this summer!

Several recent heavy rains have not caused further inside leaks in Memorial Hall, so I feel quite confident the problem has been solved & we can move forward with completing the project.

Pending fall projects are painting the ramp & porch & removal of the dying tree. A date will be announced later for our annual fall raking/clean-up weekend. - *Regards, Ron Maxwell, Chair*



### **Christian Education:**

Greetings, all! We are hoping & praying that Lydia will be able to teach Sunday School - she's such a wonderful teacher! It will begin on September 8th. I don't think we need a formal enrollment, but I would appreciate knowing if you have children who are planning to attend!

ALSO: I'm still looking for a substitute childcare person. The successful candidate will need to step in on short notice & have a rapport with children.



The pay is modest, but the service is most appreciated! Thank you so much! - *Blessings to All, Emily Schroeder, Elder of Christian Education*

### Communications & Outreach:



We've had a busy summer so far. A big thank-you to Diane & everyone who helped with the rummage sale; Glenna & everyone who made cookies for the cookie walk; & Sheldon

& everyone who worked on the BBQ. Another great event!

I want to take the time to let everyone who has donated items or baked pies for the Silent Auction table know how appreciated you are. We have been able to add to the Turkey Pie Supper amounts each month, which greatly help the Church's budget. I also want to thank Lynn & Carole for helping make the Needhams. It's great being able to count on folks. No one person can do it all, it takes a team! What a great team we have at our church!

**UPCOMING EVENTS:** We had a Turkey Pie Supper on August 24; two more are scheduled for September 28 & October 26.

On October 5<sup>th</sup>, we'll be having our annual Craft Fair. We're hoping to increase the items in our kitchen for sale & will have a baked goods table for the church.



If anyone wants to get involved with any of these events, please feel free to speak with me - all help is appreciated. - *Yours in Christ, Debbie Stowe, Chair*

### Worship Committee:

I hope you've all had a wonderful summer! Summer brings beautiful garden flowers to our Sanctuary – thank you all for sharing.

This year it also brought Ian Maxwell one Sunday to substitute for Chris, who was enjoying a vacation day. I know we all enjoyed hearing Ian play. Great news – we will also be able to enjoy music provided by Diane Rawson on September 1. She has graciously agreed to substitute for Chris on that day.

Bulletins for the remainder of the year have been reserved for memorial dedications. This is a nice way to remember a loved one & to help the church. Next year's sign-up sheet will be available this fall.

However, many opportunities still exist to share a handshake & smile with those attending our services; please consider signing up to be a greeter. Sign-up sheets are in Memorial Hall. It's no problem if you don't want to also take collection - simply let me or the Elder/Deacon of the month know & we will find a substitute.

I hope that everyone enjoys the hymn choices & that we sing your favorite at least occasionally. My thought process when working with the Worship Committee to choose hymns is to look for a hymn to focus us for the first, to look for a hymn tied to the Gospel reading for the second & to look for a good parting message in the final hymn. I also try not to repeat hymns more than two or three times a year. When I see a hymn selected for "choice" that we have not included recently, I try to incorporate the whole hymn in an upcoming service. All the more reason to speak up & request your favorite when we have the congregation choose! As always, feel free to give your suggestions to me. - *In Christian Love, Cheryl Baker, Elder of Worship*



**Finance & Stewardship:**

Thank you all for your generous financial support of South China Community Church.

Our offerings shortfall has remained relatively constant since the last newsletter update in March. Total offerings at the end of July were \$30,150 or \$2,051 less than the budgeted amount at this time. Total revenue to date is \$37,342 which includes a one-time donation in February of \$2,000. Total expenditures to date are \$39,055 for a total year-to-date **deficit of \$1,713**. Expenditures are very close to the target for this time of the year; were it not for the \$2,000 windfall, the deficit to date would be \$3,713.

The Church Council will be reviewing a DRAFT 2020 budget in September & will send it to the congregation for review well in advance of the 2020 Annual Meeting. It is important that we all have the opportunity to see & comment in advance.

As we all know, we anticipate annual budget shortfalls in the future unless we can find ways of increasing our revenues. One way we hope to do this is by selling our baked goods & candies at craft fairs & other events outside the church. For this reason, our kitchen recently became licensed by the Maine Dept. of Agriculture, Conservation & Forestry! We welcome your ideas & help to increase our revenue.



The Council recently approved taking funds from the Memorial Funds Account to complete much needed interior repairs. As our church building ages, we can expect maintenance & upkeep costs to increase.

As of July 31, we had the following statement balances:  
Non-profit Business Plus.....\$3,482.12  
Faith Ames Music Fund.....\$2,198.76  
Memorial Funds.....\$15,019.27  
Checkbook.....\$3,286.82  
PDF.....\$307.89  
**Total Available Funds.....\$24,294.86**

Delaware Life Annuities as of August 26, 2019:

Memorial Fund Annuity #1.....\$26,566.25  
Memorial Fund Annuity #2.....\$26,566.25  
Meader Family Fund.....\$33,822.17  
**Total Annuities Value.....\$86,954.67**

**Total Financial Assets.....111,249.53**  
– Respectfully, Finance Chair, John Glowa



<https://www.caregiverstress.com/>

For tools & resources on caring for yourself while caring for a loved one



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

- Dennis Towle (4/23/19)
- Liane Gillcash (4/23/19)
- Phil Webber (6/15/19)
- Natalie Spangler (6/21/19)
- Charlotte Steeves (6/30/19)
- Gloria (Dowe) Pinette (8/18/19)



*"Worry does not take away tomorrow's trouble. It takes away today's peace."*  
– From GUIDEPOSTS

*"Disappointments are inevitable; discouragement is a choice."* - Charles Stanley



## On the Lighter Side...

**He:** The same bike tries to run me down every single day.

**She:** Sounds like a vicious cycle.

**Q:** What's the difference between a poorly dressed man on a unicycle & a well-dressed man on a bicycle?

**A:** Attire

**Q:** Who's the leader of the Kitty Communist Party?

**A:** Chairman Meow

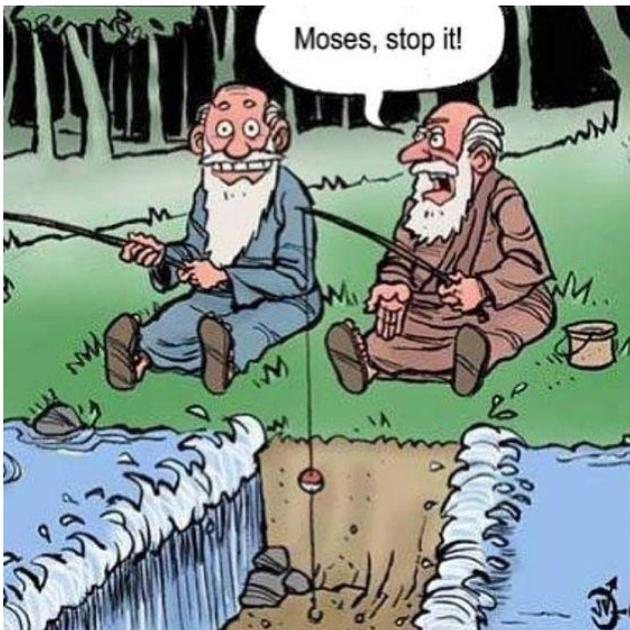
**Q:** What happened to the guy who sued over his missing luggage?

**A:** He lost his case.

**He:** Can you tell me about that new do-it-yourself orthodontist?

**She:** Brace yourself.

After God created 24hrs of alternating darkness & light, one of the angels asked him, "What are you going to do now?" God said, "I think I'm going to call it a day."



- † ADULT BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUME  
SEPT 8, 9AM
- † SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICE, 10AM
- † COMMUNION: SEPT 1 - OCT 6 - NOV 3
- † COUNCIL MEETINGS: 2<sup>ND</sup> TUESDAY OF EACH  
MONTH AT 6PM: SEPT 10 - OCT 8 - NOV 12
- † PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND (PDF)  
DONATION SUNDAY: SEPT 29
- † RECOVERY GROUP (PREVIOUSLY AA) MEETINGS:  
MONDAYS, 7-8PM **\*NEW NAME & TIME\***
- † SEPT 14: MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR NATALIE  
SPANGLER, TIME TO BE ANNOUNCED
- † SEPT 26: SET-UP FOR TURKEY PIE SUPPER, 9AM
- † SEPT 28: TURKEY PIE SUPPER, 5-6:30PM  
(CHERYL BAKER, CHAIR)
- † OCT 5: ANNUAL CRAFT FAIR - TIME TBA
- † OCT 24: SET-UP FOR TURKEY PIE SUPPER, 9AM
- † OCT 26: TURKEY PIE SUPPER, 5-6:30PM

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♥♥ BEST WISHES TO PASTOR PAUL  
& SUSIE (PARKMAN) ON THEIR  
MARRIAGE, WHICH TOOK PLACE AT  
SCCC ON AUGUST 25<sup>TH</sup> ♥ MAY YOU  
BE BLESSED  
WITH MUCH  
LOVE & JOY ♥



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*“For God, who said, “Light shall shine out of darkness,” is the One who has shone in our hearts to give the Light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.”*

*- 2 Corinthians 4:6*

