
SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH



Rev. Paul Harwath, Pastor

Autumn/Winter 2019

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Advent is about to begin, along with the beginning of the new church year. We, at South China Community Church, use the Three-Year Lectionary. Most of the large main line denominations use the three-year division of biblical lessons. This makes sure that each pastor preaches on most of the major religious lessons at least once every three years.



This also means that the pastor of a certain church must preach on all subjects whether he wishes to or not. This keeps each of us from just concentrating on the lessons that we like to dwell. We need to preach on those subjects we wish to avoid.

We all need to work on teachings that are hard for us to understand. It's easy for all of us to avoid those topics that challenge us. When a church goes astray it is because a pastor avoids preaching on topics he or she doesn't like. After that happens, they usually concentrate only on topics that push a certain belief. This is how cults begin.

It is the same for our personal lives. If we only care about certain topics & teachings of Jesus, we will end up leading ourselves astray. We end up devaluing the topics that challenge us. These are the lessons we need most of all. This year, let's challenge ourselves to address those topics that we need to work on most. - *God's love and mine, Pastor Paul*



CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

President's Report:

The Council meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6PM. As always, if you have any comments, concerns, announcements for upcoming events or suggestions for fund-raising activities, you are invited to attend our meetings or call or email me at (207) 861-4134 or gbjroadrunner.com.

In addition to the monthly reports by each Committee Chair, we continue reviewing the By-Laws & should have this completed before year-end for your review & comments.

As suggested at the Annual Meeting, we started the preliminary budget review in September so the Finance Officer could present it to the congregation in October. The budget as presented, with any suggestions from the congregation, was reviewed for changes at the November 12th Council meeting; the Finance Officer is preparing our annual Pledge Letter for mailing to the congregation. Your prompt return of pledges will enable us to have more accurate income information for the final review of the draft budget at the December 10th Council meeting. The revised budget will be forwarded to the congregation in December & voted upon at our January 2020 Annual Meeting.



Our major fund-raising events for 2019 have been held & proven very successful, although we continue to have less budgeted revenue coming in than our budgeted expenses. Your support of these events & the dedicated work of the various participants is greatly appreciated.

Bring a friend to Church to help us grow & may you enjoy the upcoming, very special holidays. - *Glenna Jordan, President*

Missions & Benevolence:

We continue to refer new requests for food assistance to the China Food Pantry & the Benevolence Fund contributes \$25 monthly. When I recently contacted Lois Rogers, she asked to be removed from the Committee & suggested that member Lindsey Harwath, who also volunteers at the Food Pantry, be our contact with the Pantry. Thanks so much to Lois for her previous service & to Lindsey for graciously agreeing to fill this position. She will continue to remind us of any urgent needs & asks that you please continue to leave plastic bags of any size & large paper or reusable bags in the container in the Narthex; she will get these to the Pantry.



The Benevolence Committee will again forward a \$100 donation to help with the Thanksgiving boxes provided by the Pantry.

My usual reminder: please support PDF (Pastor's Discretionary Fund) offerings on the months that have a 5th Sunday (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 received since our last newsletter were for helping folks with fuel & electric expenses. Thanks to those who supported the PDF donations that allowed Pastor Paul to meet these requests.

Again, a special thank you to Debbie Stowe & Carol Pelletier who made the delicious Needhams for our Turkey Pie suppers, with the donations going to the PDF.



I received the first request on November 10 (I'm sure Pastor Paul will soon be getting requests from agencies) for help with Christmas gifts for needy families. I know you will all respond with your usual generosity so these families, especially the children, will share in our Christmas joy. 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:

November ...
the time of year when things are buttoned down, prepared for Maine's greatest season -- snow!

Outside, the building is doing well. The ramp & porch are painted. Shovel, sand & snow melt are in place, ready for use. The railing on the ramp is in need of a paint touch-up before the snow season starts, weather & time permitting. Removing the dying tree in front of the church is an excellent winter project, as snow will help protect the ground when the tree is taken down in sections.



Inside, the building is in good shape. Timers for heat to automatically go on & off are functioning well. Downstairs, the disused "pink" room will be transformed into a functional place for crafts to be created & stored, which will remove some of the obvious temporary storage upstairs & free up the stage.

The drop ceiling in Memorial Hall has been a bit of an eyesore as we have fixed & re-fixed the leak in the roof. Several times I thought we had dealt with the problem only to find at the next big rain that we had not. I am confident that all aspects of that leak are now dealt with, so the process of repairing the ceiling will begin.

The drop ceiling will be removed & the existing lights will be replaced with LED fixtures (like the ones in the kitchen); they will be mounted on the ceiling above the existing drop ceiling. The ceiling above will be stabilized (right now it is plaster & in need of attention) & will be transformed with a finish covering of ceiling panels & paint. The finished effect will raise the ceiling about 2' higher than the present one, making the room seem bigger & brighter. Thank you for your patience with the process; it has been a longer timeframe than I wanted.

If you have any thoughts about anything building related, please send it along to me via room21@outlook.com. This email is the quick, easy way to reach me, as phone calls

seem to be always telemarketers & go straight to my Voicemail as a general rule. - *Regards, Ron Maxwell, Chair*



Christian Education:

Our Sunday School continues to succeed thanks to the faithfulness & resolve of Lydia Biswell. We can all learn valuable lessons from her!

I am hopeful that we can form a mid-week study group after Christmas. A few of you indicated some interest on the survey taken earlier this year. Let's make it happen!



The church library still needs a small bookcase. If anyone has an extra one at home, or knows where one is available at a reasonable price, please see me.

Do feel free to talk with me about any concerns or ideas you have for our Christian education. I'm not as scary as our childcare person thinks I am! Wishing you all a very blessed holiday season! - *Blessings to All, Emily Schroeder, Elder of Christian Education*



Communications & Outreach:

What an exciting few months we have to enjoy! A time of bustle, family & friends. We have two dates (Nov 26 & Dec 11) to show our crafts at Togus & will keep our eyes open for other opportunities.

We have the supplies for the wreaths & arrangements. Now we just need a time for all the talented ladies to get together to create their masterpieces!

What a blessing it is to have people step up to lend a hand. This church is filled with folks like that! My wish is that everyone enjoys the upcoming season with Christ, friends & family. - *Yours in Christ, Debbie Stowe, Chair*



Worship Committee:

The beginning of a new year is at hand – a new church year, that is. Our church year begins with Advent, starting December 1 this year. At our church, we follow the Revised Common Lectionary, with prescribed readings for each Sunday. It runs in three-year cycles; the Gospel readings in the first year (Year A) are taken from the Gospel of Matthew, those in the second year (Year B) from the Gospel of Mark, & those in the third year (Year C) from the Gospel of Luke. We are just finishing Year C of the cycle & will be starting Year A at the beginning of Advent.

In December, I will be distributing the list of Scripture readers for January-June of 2020. Many thanks to all who participate in this service! You have all been great at covering your turn or finding a substitute & that is very much appreciated. We currently have 11-12 people who participate. Please let me know if you would like to be added to the schedule or if you do not want to continue to participate.

There is a huge variety of worship music available to us – traditional, contemporary, everything in between – & everyone has favorites. As Pastor Paul has said, our service is traditional & primarily our hymns are also. However, there is certainly room for inclusion of a variety of types of music. We are looking for ways to include more contemporary music & are considering adding an occasional 4th hymn, having a special pre-service music time, or perhaps even adding a separate

service. What path to take is still being discussed; we may use a combination of your suggestions. If you have a hymn you would like the congregation to sing, please let me know. Keep in mind that we cannot reproduce copyrighted music, but many hymns are in the Public Domain or have never been copyrighted. - *In Christian Love, Cheryl Baker, Elder of Worship*



Finance & Stewardship:

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas & always, thank you all for your generous financial support of SCCC!

Thus far, 2019 has been relatively good for our church finances. Our offerings shortfall has remained at a relatively constant pace since the last newsletter update in August. Total offerings at the end of October were \$42,749, which is \$3,481 less than the budgeted amount for this time of the year. Total revenue to date is \$57,164, which includes the one-time February donation of \$2,000. Total expenditures to date are \$57,264 for a total year-to-date deficit of just \$100. Were it not for the \$2,000 windfall in February, the deficit to date would be \$2,100.

The Church Council submitted a proposed draft 2020 budget to the congregation; we welcome any comments, questions or suggestions. The budget includes a projected shortfall of approximately \$9,000 for next year. The annual pledge letter has been distributed & we ask those who are able to increase their pledge over their 2019 amount to do so & help close the projected budget gap. We also ask folks to come up with ideas for increasing our revenue.



Our 2020 budget contains an increase in expenditures of about 9% over 2019. The bulk of this increase is for maintenance & operation of our church building.

As of October 31, we had the following statement balances:

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Non-profit Business Plus..... | \$5,257.41 |
| Faith Ames Music Fund..... | \$2,199.04 |
| Memorial Funds Bank Account..... | \$15,030.58 |
| Checkbook Balance..... | \$4,899.61 |
| PDF Balance..... | \$319.40 |
| Total Available Funds..... | \$27,706.04 |

Delaware Life Annuities as of November 14:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------|
| Memorial Fund Annuity #1 value... | \$26,722.81 |
| Memorial Fund Annuity #2 value... | \$26,722.81 |
| Meader Family Fund value..... | \$34,021.49 |
| Total Annuities value..... | \$87,467.11 |

Total Financial Assets.....\$115,173.15
 – *Respectfully, Finance Chair, John Glowa*



A BIT OF NEWS....

How many of you know that Susie Harwath is a professional baker? She has been employed in this craft for many years & specializes in pastry baking. She (with Pastor Paul as a go-for) now has a booth at the United Farmers Market of Belfast, 18 Spring Street, on Saturdays from 9AM-2PM. If you have tasted her goodies, you know they are delicious!

Susie has been furnishing some of the smaller treats left from her Saturday baking for us at Fellowship time. It was suggested, by a clever someone in our Church Family, & Susie has generously agreed, that these smaller treats will be on a table in Memorial Hall with all the donations (please be generous) going to the PDF to help those in need. (Sorry I can't take credit for this marvelous idea!)



Susie will have the more expensive items such as pies or cakes, available for purchase at a discount to our Church Family. She currently gets \$12 for her pies at the Farmers Market, so to cover her costs, we should pay at least \$10 for a pie.

This is also what we have been getting for pies at our Silent Auction & Bake Sales. She also will be taking orders from home (717-645-2783) or after church for special orders for holidays, birthdays, anniversaries, etc. Her Church Family wishes her the best in this new business endeavor!

***A gift for you!!** The 1st person (some have to be eliminated because they know about the idea) to tell Jayne Winters, our newsletter editor, the correct guess of who wrote this article will have a choice of a "Susie treat" & I will give the donation to PDF. AREN'T MYSTERIES FUN????!!!

♥ EDITOR'S CORRECTION: IN OUR SUMMER NEWSLETTER, WE SENT BEST WISHES TO PASTOR PAUL & SUSIE ON THEIR AUGUST 25TH MARRIAGE. PLEASE NOTE SUSIE'S MAIDEN NAME WAS "PORTER" NOT "PARKMAN." APOLOGIES FOR THE ERROR!



<http://www.guideposts.org/quotesforselfcare>
Uplifting quotes to inspire caregivers to take time they need for themselves

<http://www.good-sam.com/guideposts>
For more information on doing good & living well in retirement

<http://www.eldercare.acl.gov>
(800) 677-1116 For information about elder care community resources



"When we feed our faith, we starve our doubts." – Christine Caine, Author

"In stressful times, seek God. In painful times, praise God. In terrible times, trust God. And at all times...thank God." – Ann Voskamp, Writer



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

Lucinda Frankenfield (11/10/19)
Former choir member

Millie Thompson (11/15/19)
Jane Farrington's daughter

~~~~~  
**The 12 Days of Christmas**



Originally a poem written by Catholic clerics, it was transformed into a carol when the "12 Days of Christmas" was holiday custom. If we look at the meaning the clerics chose for the 12 days, the impact of this tradition can be understood & appreciated.

**The "true love"** in the song **is** not a sweetheart, but the Catholic Church's code for **God**. The person receiving the gifts is anyone who has accepted Christ as the Son of God & as Savior.

*On the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . a partridge in a pear tree.*

**The partridge represents Jesus.** Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge, the only bird that will die to protect its young.

*On the second day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . two turtledoves.*

**These twin birds represent the Old & New Testaments.** Through this gift, we find the complete story of Judeo-Christian faith & God's plan for the world.

*On the third day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . three French hens.*

**These birds represent faith, hope, & love.** This gift hearkens back to 1 Corinthians 13, the love chapter written by the apostle Paul.

On the fourth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . four calling birds.

**The four calling birds are the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, & John.**



On the fifth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . five gold rings.

The gift of the **rings represents the first five books of the Old Testament**, known as the Torah or the Pentateuch.

On the sixth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . six geese a-laying.

**Each egg is a day in creation**, a time when the world was “hatched” or formed by God.

On the seventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . seven swans a-swimming.

**The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit are prophecy, ministry, teaching, exhortation, giving, leading, & compassion.** As swans are one of the most beautiful & graceful creatures on earth, they seem to be a perfect symbol for the spiritual gifts.

On the eighth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . eight maids a-milking.

Being a milkmaid was about the worst job one could have in England during this period; this conveyed that Jesus cared as much about servants as he did those of royal blood. **The eight** who were blessed **included the poor in spirit, those who mourn, the meek, those who hunger & thirst for righteousness, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, & those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake.**

On the ninth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . nine ladies dancing.

These **nine dancers** were the gifts known as the fruit of the Spirit. The fruits **are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, & self-control.**



On the tenth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . ten lords a-leaping.

As **lords were** judges & in charge of the law, this code for **the Ten Commandments** was fairly straightforward to Catholics.

On the eleventh day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . eleven pipers piping.

Most think of the disciples in terms of a dozen, but when Judas betrayed Jesus & committed suicide, there were only **eleven men** who **carried out the gospel message.**

On the twelfth day of Christmas my true love gave to me . . . twelve drummers drumming.

The **drummers are the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles’ Creed.** “I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.”

#### **History Behind "The 12 Days of Christmas"**

Teaching the Catholic faith was outlawed in 16<sup>th</sup> century England; thus, the church went underground. To hide the important & illegal elements of their teaching, clerics composed poems that seemed silly to most people, but these verses were veiled works that taught the church’s most important tenets. “The 12 Days of Christmas” is said to be one of these teaching tools.

Most people today believe that the 12 Days of Christmas start December 12<sup>th</sup> or 13<sup>th</sup> & run through Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. In fact, **the first day of Christmas is December 25<sup>th</sup> and the final day is January 5<sup>th</sup>.** For hundreds of years the Christmas holidays didn’t begin until Christmas Eve & didn’t end until Epiphany.

So, just a silly song? On the surface maybe, but in reality, a refreshing reminder of the essential elements of Christian faith. (Taken from [www.Crosswalk.com](http://www.Crosswalk.com))





## On the Lighter Side...

He: Somebody stole the wheels off all the police cars!

She: The cops are working on it – tirelessly.

Q: What weighs more, a gallon of water or a gallon of butane?

A: The water. Butane is a lighter fluid.



† ADULT BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9AM

† SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICE, 10AM

† COMMUNION: DEC 1 - JAN 5 - FEB 2 - MARCH 1

† COUNCIL MEETINGS: 2<sup>ND</sup> TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 6PM: DEC 10 - JAN 14 - FEB 11 - MARCH 10

† PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND (PDF) DONATION SUNDAY: DEC 29, MARCH 29

† RECOVERY GROUP (PREVIOUSLY AA) MEETINGS: MONDAYS, 7-8PM

† NOV 24: DESSERT AUCTION DURING FELLOWSHIP

† NOV 27: THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE, 6PM

† NOV 30: DECORATE SANCTUARY & MEMORIAL HALL FOR ADVENT, 9AM

† DEC 1: ADVENT I - DEC 8: ADVENT II  
DEC 15: ADVENT III - DEC 22: ADVENT IV

† DEC 4: DOTERRA (ESSENTIAL OILS & HEALTHCARE PRODUCTS) EVENT, 6-8:30PM

† DEC 24: CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, 7PM

† DEC 25: CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE, 10AM

† JAN 5: EPIPHANY SERVICE

† JAN 11: DE-HANGING OF THE GREENS, 9AM

† JAN 26: ANNUAL MEETING DURING FELLOWSHIP

## ===== A Blast from the Past...



**THANKSGIVING 1991**



**CHRISTMAS 1994**

*South China Community Church*  
*246 Village Street, PO Box 335*  
*South China, ME 04358*  
[southchinacommunitychurch.org](http://southchinacommunitychurch.org)

*“Until I come, devote yourself to  
the public reading of Scripture,  
to exhortation, to teaching.”*  
*- 1 Timothy 4:13*

