
SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH



Rev. Paul Harwath, Pastor

Spring 2020

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

It is a crazy time to be alive. Susie & I just got back from Florida & the whole country is shut down. I start to not feel well & end up quarantined. What is wonderful about this adventure we are all in, is experiencing people working together. Much of the hate that has divided the country has drifted away. So many people have reached out to us to see if we need help. People have left groceries on our front porch, called us, emailed us & texted us.

Hearing the stories of people helping each other is a real lift up. Most of us have a little extra time this Lenten Season. This is a great time to pick up your Bible or your favorite devotional, or maybe your favorite Christian movie. It is a great time to reach out to those in need; let others around you know that you are thinking about them.

Watching good things come out of such a stressful time is such a blessing. God wants us to have a closer relationship with Him. We have no excuse now. Let's do it! My brain is a little fuzzy writing this, but I hope that we all use this time to draw closer to one another & to our Lord Jesus Christ. - *God's & my love to all of you, Pastor Paul*



CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS



The SCCC Annual Meeting was held on January 26, 2020; the proposed by-law revisions & budget were approved & copies are available in Memorial Hall. Council members Emily Schroeder & John Glowa were re-elected for three-year terms & will continue to serve as Chairs of Christian Education & Finance & Stewardship, respectively.

President's Report:

It's me again, after the Church Council voted in the new slate of officers!

Council meetings are at 6PM on the 2nd Tuesday of each month. 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 (207-861-4134) or email me (gbjroadrunner.com). The Committee Chair reports are recorded in the Secretary's minutes, which are posted on the bulletin board in Memorial Hall.

The Council followed the suggestion made at the 2019 Annual Meeting about starting the Preliminary Budget Review in September, with the Finance Officer presenting it to the congregation for comments in October, followed by the mailing of our annual Pledge Letter/Pledge Request in November. I feel this worked out well & we thank those who maintained or increased their pledges for 2020.

Your donations for the food that Susie donates for the PDF have been extremely generous, but the 50/50 split does not cover her costs. After some discussion & to simplify tracking costs, the Council voted that $\frac{1}{4}$ of the donations would go to the PDF & $\frac{3}{4}$ to Susie to

cover her expenses. Purchasing her “goodies” from her Farmer’s Market baking is an easy & satisfying way for you to help with Pastor Paul’s PDF expenses. We greatly appreciate Susie providing these items & your support!



I expect Ron Maxwell has covered this under his report, but feel it is also appropriate to include it in mine: The renovation of the first section in Memorial Hall has started with the installation of energy saving LED lights. This will be a slow process since it is being done with volunteer labor; I want to express our thanks to Ron Maxwell & Bob Webber who are fitting this into their regular work schedules. It will be further slowed since Bob has just undergone gall bladder surgery - we wish him a speedy recovery!

Recently we were blessed with a \$4,000 Charitable Grant by Anna & Peyton Forbes for use as needed, dedicated “In Appreciation of David & Janet Preston.” We greatly appreciate this gift; it has been deposited in the Living Memorial Fund as it pays a better interest rate.

PLEASE NOTE: Due to the Governor’s recent ban prohibiting events involving more than 10 people, we are cancelling our church services during the fast-moving coronavirus outbreak. Upon their return from FL, Pastor Paul & Susie are currently under quarantine for 2wks (he’s had a fever, but is feeling better), but he does plan to provide services even though we can’t attend. Ron Maxwell & Russ Poulin are working on getting them to our church website, but in the meantime, links are provided for other devotional messages. Please go to our website at <https://southchinacommunitychurch.org> or our Facebook page for updates.

Marge Kurtzman had ordered palms for Palm Sunday services; they will be in front of the church from **10AM – 2PM on Saturday, April 4th**. Delivery arrangements can be made if you are unable to get to the church that day; let your Flock Leader, me or Marge know.

Because of church cancellation & in fairness to our staff, the Council had an emergency meeting via email on March 20th & voted to continue paying staff during this ban. We understand that this is a financial concern for our church & respectfully suggest that our Church Family consider mailing their pledges/ loose offerings/PDF donations to our Assistant Treasurer: Ronald Emery, 267 Alder Park Road, South China, ME 04358.

Our major fundraising events were to start with our first Turkey Pie Supper of the year on April 25th with Cheryl Baker as chair. Regretfully, **all April church events will be cancelled.**

We thank you for your continued support; please give Pastor Paul (207-314-3551) or me (207-861-4134) a call if you have any needs or concerns that we can help you with. Remember to keep in touch by phone or email with church friends, especially the elderly or ill, to help combat the feeling of isolation. - *Glenna Jordan, President*



Missions & Benevolence:

For the record, your generous donations provided many gifts & gift certificates for the two families we helped at Christmas. Thanks for your support in this special mission!

We continue to contribute \$25 monthly & refer new requests for food to the China Food Pantry. Thanks, as always, go to Lindsey Harwath, our contact with this organization. She will 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. Non-perishable foods are also appreciated.

As a reminder, please support the PDF (Pastor’s Discretionary Fund) offerings on the

months that have a 5th Sunday (3/29) as these & other cash donations enable Pastor Paul to meet the emergency requests that he receives without asking the congregation for special donations. Since our last newsletter, we've helped folks with vehicle fuel, heating & electric expenses. Thanks to any who made special cash donations, as well as the 5th Sunday PDF donations that allowed Pastor Paul to meet these requests.

A very special "thank-you" to Susie, who has been providing delicious baked goods left over from her Farmer's Market baking. The donations originally went to the PDF, but since you've been most generous, the Council later voted that half would go to Susie to help with her baking expenses & half to the PDF. As noted in my President's Message, this was discussed again at the March Council meeting. Because the half & half split was not really covering Susie's expenses, members voted that ¼ of the donations would go to PDF & ¾ to Susie. We greatly appreciate her providing her baked goodies; your purchases are an easy & satisfying (yummy!) way for us to help with Pastor Paul's PDF expenses.

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



Finance & Stewardship:

Happy Spring! Our church finances are doing relatively well inasmuch as we have received two separate donations of \$10,000 & \$4,000 each. This is unbudgeted revenue that is included in our statement balances.

Our budgeted revenue for the year has started out slowly. As of February 29, our total revenue was \$8,679.61; our budget called for revenue as of this date of \$10,130. Expenses thus far total \$10,555.33 for a budgeted deficit as of February 29 of **-\$1,875.72**. Once our fundraising activities go into high gear, we expect that much of this deficit will be erased.

Very good news is that your offerings to date total \$8,018.16 which is \$79.70 (101%) higher than our budgeted offerings target for this date! Thank you all for your extreme generosity in response to our requests for increased giving.

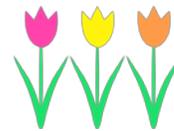
Statement Balances as of February 29, 2020:

Non-profit Business Plus.....	\$12,452.32
Faith Ames Music Fund.....	\$2,043.38
Memorial Funds Savings Account...	\$17,087.70
Current Checkbook Balance.....	\$4,442.29
PDF Balance.....	\$1,000.00
Total Available Funds.....	\$37,025.89

Delaware Life Annuities as of March 10, 2020:

Memorial Fund #1.....	\$26,947.79
Memorial Fund #2.....	\$26,947.79
Meader Family Fund.....	\$34,307.92
Total Annuities Value.....	\$88,203.50
Total Financial Assets.....	\$125,229.39

- *Respectfully, Finance Chair, John Glowa*



Building & Grounds:

The building is quiet these days, with the temporary quarantine. This is fine, because it is giving the sexton time to do those deep cleaning tasks that have been waiting their turn. I have a closet to arrange & some removal of useless junk from downstairs. Borrowing my mother-in-law's pickup truck & a couple of teenagers will take right care of that.

The Memorial Hall renovation is proceeding well. I have surrounded myself with elders who are giving me wisdom about the difficult corner of Memorial Hall (Thank you, Sheldon!) & some rearranging of electrical infrastructure (Thank you, Jack Shields!). After those two steps, the ceiling will be clad with sheetrock (Thank you, Bob!) & my boys are raring to go, or would be if they really knew what fun it will be 😊. Then the upper walls will be blended into the lower walls & the whole thing painted a marvelous shade of beige. The base coat will hold true until we can all come back together & decide another color to make it.



Spring will be upon us before we know it. I will hide rakes & trimming tools under the small porch on the end of Memorial Hall, so that anyone who is tired of being trapped

inside can come & rake or trim their worries away. If piles appear, I have teenage help that will make the piles disappear for you! You can come & make the piles any old time. When the front beds are done, I will bring in the mulch & all will be right for the year. Also, the railings on the ramp & decks will be painted in the warm spring, so that the coat will stand the test of time.

My goal for the future is for us to be all sitting around the tables at fellowship, telling stories of how we waited at home back in '20 & nothing happened. Be safe & watch for the ways God is telling you how you can be of help to someone in need. - *Regards, Ron Maxwell, Chair*



Christian Education:

Greetings everyone! I'd like to thank Paula for filling the role of Sunday School teacher in Lydia's absence. She's been doing a great job! We must continue to pray for Lydia as her journey with cancer treatment continues.

My attempt at hiring a childcare provider has been unsuccessful so far. My thanks to Bernie, Gail, Patrick & Paula for stepping in. A sign-up sheet will be available for anyone who would like to take a turn with our little ones. Your help would be most appreciated!

Until we meet again: "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer". (Romans 12:12) - *Blessings to All, Emily Schroeder, Elder of Christian Education*

Communications & Outreach:

We were revving up to go to Togus to sell crafts & candy - Carole & I had a great time shopping for Easter craft items! Debbie G. was going to use her artistic ability to make the items pop! The good thing is that everything will keep, but with the virus, all such plans are on hold.

I spend a lot of time on my phone just chatting with folks. God bless the phone as we can keep connected. It is amazing how much better I feel after chatting with someone.

We are blessed to have folks in our church who are willing to help others. If anyone needs assistance, please let us know. My prayer is for everyone to stay safe. - *Yours in Christ, Debbie Stowe, Chair*



Worship Committee:

As I write this, our world situation seems to be changing every minute. Any news I give you may well be out of date by the time you receive the newsletter.

You have likely heard that church services, Bible study, & Sunday School have all been cancelled until further notice. We don't know how long the State of Civil Emergency will last or whether we will even be able to hold an Easter service. It seems unimaginable, but is a very real possibility.

Some of our more technologically gifted members are working on a way to offer services online & are setting up a website to accommodate videos. Our devoted Pastor has agreed to conduct services to be recorded once he is feeling better. We will try to let everyone know via email when this is ready, but please check the current church website (southchinacommunitychurch.org) or Facebook page for news, updates, & links. While we understand we will not reach everyone

with this approach, it seems to be the best we can do for the moment.

On a different note, please keep in mind that one way to continue to support the church is to sponsor the bulletin for a month. The cost is \$25. You can designate a message or remembrance to be printed in the bulletin each Sunday for the month; many in 2020 are still available. When we are able to return to church & again have regular services, just fill in your name & message on the form on the sign-up table in Memorial Hall.

One of the responsibilities I have & thoroughly enjoy is selecting hymn possibilities for the worship services. One hymn that comes to mind today, one I love, is #518, *He's Got the Whole World in His Hands*. I know at least one other of you also likes it, as it is often chosen when we do hymn choice. How especially appropriate it is for today! I play it in my head often & hope you will keep it in mind, too! This serious health threat will pass & I look forward to our being together for worship again. In the meantime, please all stay safe and healthy! - *In Christian Love, Cheryl Baker, Elder of Worship*



"Don't just aspire to make a living. Aspire to make a difference." – Denzel Washington, Actor

"Try to have good days and bad moments. Life is too short to have a bad day." - Anonymous



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

Helen Mosher (12/17/19)
Noriko Dillenbeck (1/10/20)



<https://www.guideposts.org/springpositive>
Find out why spring is the most positive season of the year

<https://www.guideposts.org/friends-and-family/pets/dogs/she-raised-money-to-bring-her-soldiers-dog-home-from-afghanistan>
The story of Puppy Rescue Mission, a non-profit established in December 2010 by Anna Maria Chiasson of Fort Kent, ME

On the Lighter Side...



Q: What's Irish and stays out all night?
A: Paddy O'Furniture

Q: How do you know if an Irishman's having fun?
A: He's Dublin over with laughter!

Q: Why shouldn't you iron a four-leaf clover?
A: You might press your luck!

Q: What do you get when you cross poison ivy with a four-leaf clover?
A: A rash of good luck.

The Story of Saint Patrick



His real name was Magonus Saccatus Patricius. His father had been a deacon and his grandfather a priest; he grew up in a world whose mores and Christianity were provincial Roman, in an area which never lost its Celtic identity and customs. Even though Patrick's family had been ordained, they didn't seem to have a passion for their work. Patrick himself was described as being rather indifferent to it as a youth.

He was born around the year 400 in Scotland. When he was 16yrs old, he was captured as a slave by the High King of Ireland, sold in Ireland and taken to the northeast of the country to herd sheep. During his six years of solitude, he found a life of prayer and pledged his life to God.

One night, Patrick had a vision and he escaped from slavery, finding his way home to his family. He studied religion for many years to become a priest and a missionary. At night, he would hear in his dreams the call from the Irish, to come and free them from paganism. Finally, Pope Celestine fulfilled Saint Patrick's wish and ordained him as bishop to preach the word of God to the Celtic People. Saint Patrick then returned to Ireland to help teach the word of God. He helped to build churches, baptised the pagans into Christianity, and ordained bishops and priests; none of his work was without difficulty.

On Easter night long ago, it was forbidden to light any other fire in Ireland until after the lighting of the High King's own bonfire. When the High King saw that Saint Patrick was lighting the fire, he sent a warband to kill Patrick and quench the fire. But the fire could not be quenched and Saint Patrick and his followers passed the warriors in disguise of a herd of deer, ultimately defeating the royal druids at Tara in a contest of miracle working. Many of the King's court bowed down to Saint Patrick and were converted; even though the High King was not one of these, he

did grant Saint Patrick free speech and the right to preach freely to the people of Ireland.

Another story about Patrick is when he went to the royal center at sunrise and found the King's two daughters, Eithne and Fedelm. The two girls questioned Patrick about God and listened attentively to what he had to say; he recited the Holy Creed to them and baptised them according to their wishes. Upon receiving the sacrament, the two girls died and were buried there.

Another tale about Saint Patrick tells us of him coming to a Neolithic tomb thought to be a "giant's grave". To satisfy his followers' curiosity, Saint Patrick raised the giant from the dead and baptised him, and then returned him to his grave.

As time passed, Saint Patrick and his followers spread the word of God around the country. He made a promise to God that the people of Ireland would keep their faith until the end of time and the day they did not keep their faith would be the day of doom.

When Saint Patrick died, several communities joined together for his burial. It is said that his body was wrapped in a shroud and placed on a cart, which was drawn by two unreined white oxen. It is said that the beasts wandered to Downpatrick where today people believe he is buried. A granite boulder marked with a cross marked his grave and is simply inscribed: PATRIC. It is also said that on the day Saint Patrick died the sun did not set, but shone for twelve days and nights. [Information taken from <https://www.livingshamrock.com/shamrock-story/>]

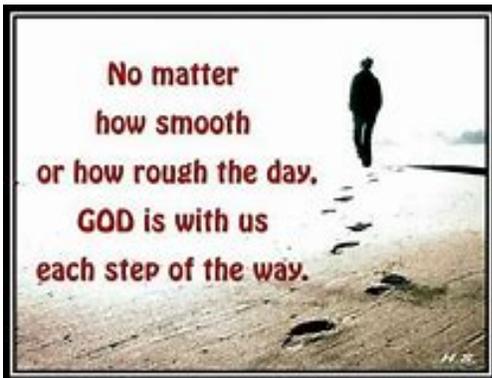
Excerpt from Patrick's Confession: "For there is no other God, nor ever was before, nor shall be hereafter, but God the Father, unbegotten and without beginning, in whom all things began, whose are all things, as we have been taught; and his son Jesus Christ, who manifestly always existed with the Father, before the beginning of time in the spirit with the Father, indescribably begotten before all things, and all things visible and invisible were made by him. He was made

man, conquered death and was received into Heaven, to the Father who gave him all power over every name in Heaven and on Earth and in Hell, so that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and God, in whom we believe. And we look to his imminent coming again, the judge of the living and the dead, who will render to each according to his deeds. And he poured out his Holy Spirit on us in abundance, the gift and pledge of immortality, which makes the believers and the obedient into sons of God and co-heirs of Christ who is revealed, and we worship one God in the Trinity of holy name."



- ✝ ADULT BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9AM
- ✝ SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICE, 10AM
- ✝ COMMUNION: MAY 3 - JUNE 7 - JULY 5 - AUGUST 2
- ✝ COUNCIL MEETINGS: 2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 6PM: MAY 12 - JUNE 9 - JULY 14 - AUGUST 11
- ✝ PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND (PDF) DONATION SUNDAY: MARCH 29 - MAY 31
- ✝ RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS: MONDAYS, 7-8PM [ATTENDANCE LIMITED DUE TO CURRENT BAN]
- ✝ APRIL 5: PALM SUNDAY
- ✝ APRIL 7: TOGUS EASTER SALE - **CANCELLED**
- ✝ APRIL 8: PASSOVER BEGINS
- ✝ APRIL 9: MAUNDY THURSDAY
- ✝ APRIL 10: GOOD FRIDAY
- ✝ APRIL 11: MEMORIAL HALL RESERVED FOR CHARLENE RACKLIFF - **CANCELLED**
- ✝ APRIL 12: EASTER SUNDAY
- ✝ APRIL 18: SEED SWAP - **CANCELLED**
- ✝ APRIL 25: TURKEY PIE SUPPER - **CANCELLED**
- ✝ MAY 25: MEMORIAL DAY
- ✝ JUNE 14: FLAG DAY
- ✝ JULY 4: INDEPENDENCE DAY

It is said that Patrick used the shamrock as a symbol to explain the Trinity to Unbelievers, i.e., how *God is One God in Three Persons*. Patrick would hold up a shamrock and challenge his hearers, "Is it one leaf or three?" "It is both one leaf and three," was their reply. "And so it is with God," he would conclude. Of course, doctrines such as the Trinity or the Divinity of Jesus Christ can only be received by willing hearts, who have committed themselves to obey whatever the Spirit reveals from the Scriptures. St. Patrick, no doubt, was careful not to confuse pagan idolaters with the idea of Polytheism, i.e., the false notion that there are many separate gods, but his dependence upon the Holy Spirit to give him the illustration of the shamrock to illustrate the Trinity, gave him success in preaching the Gospel.[<https://www.whatsaiththescripture.com/>]



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*“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.” - Joshua 1:9*

