
SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH



Rev. Paul Harwath, Pastor

Summer 2020

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

It is easy to be influenced & discouraged by the events happening in our world today. We have no reliable media to report what is truly happening. Yet even if all the worst events are 10 times more terrible than reported, our world is still blessed by The One who came into it proclaiming the Good News of God's love for all mankind 2,020 years ago.

Nothing happening on our planet can ever compare to the events of all those years ago. Jesus came so that we need not ever fear death again. To be so loved that God would give His only begotten son so that we might never fear death, but have eternal life, is too large an event for us to ever be able to understand.

This world will never be perfect. In fact, one day this world will end, but that one event, that one person, that one God, gave us all eternity as a gift of love. Let us strive for a better future here on earth, but remember our true heavenly home has yet to be realized by us on earth. This



world will never be perfect & will always have its strife. Let us work together to share a vision of our heavenly home, a destination we long to behold. - *God's & my love to all of you,*
Pastor Paul

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

President's Report:

A great deal has changed since our last newsletter! The Council had its last in-person meeting on March 10th, but due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions put in place by the Governor, carried out its church business with e-mail meetings & votes during April, May & June.

We resumed our in-person meetings, with masks & social-distancing, on July 14th. Barring any new virus concerns, we will continue to meet the second Tuesday of each month at 6PM. As always, if you have any comments or concerns, you are welcome to attend our meetings or call me at (207) 861-4134 or e-mail me at gjb@roadrunner.com



As always, the Committee Chairs share information during our monthly meetings which is recorded in the Secretary's monthly report, which is posted on the bulletin board in Memorial Hall. Please feel free to read this for current information.

The Council's process of reviewing the by-laws was completed & the revisions were approved at the January Annual Meeting; a copy is posted on the bulletin board.

During my document research regarding the Church Sales Tax Exemption, however, I came across information which was not common knowledge to the present Council members nor probably most of the congregation. I felt it was important enough to be included in the Church by-laws & addressed it at our July 14th meeting. Council members asked that I draft the proposed by-law change, which I have e-mailed to them for comments and/or approval. After Council approval, this proposed change will be presented to the congregation.



As a reminder, the Council implemented 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 November mailing of our annual pledge letter/request to the congregation. This worked out well, as having the pledge information before the end of the year helped with final planning. We will follow the same procedure this year.

As you know, due to the virus & the Governor's health restrictions, our last in-house church service was held on March 15th & the Council, with Pastor Paul's input, cancelled services for the immediate future. Much appreciation goes to Pastor Paul, Chris Faris, Russell Poulin & volunteer soloists for the services which are available on the church website. I also appreciate the efforts of the Flock Leaders to keep in touch with their flock members during this difficult time in our lives.

In-person church services, with masks, social-distancing & no fellowship, resumed June 7th. The services are still being recorded & are available on our website.

In-person attendance is averaging 23 per week, including Pastor Paul & Chris, reflecting that many of you are still sheltering in place at home. We miss seeing you, but respect your need to stay safe.



As I mentioned in the March newsletter, the Council voted to continue paying our staff during the cancellation of church services & respectfully suggested that our Church Family consider mailing their pledges, tithes, loose offerings, & PDF donations to our Assistant Treasurer: Ronald Emery, 267 Alder Park Road, South China, ME 04358. Because you have responded so well to this request & some have generously increased their pledges to help defray our fund-raising losses, we have not had to withdraw monies from the Memorial Savings except for the \$3,000 which was included in the 2020 budget for the repairs to Memorial Hall.



We certainly owe a debt of gratitude to Bob Webber & Ron Maxwell for the many hours they have devoted to the Memorial Hall project. It is beautiful, but not yet in use as the floor is curing. In appreciation, they were each given a small stipend, but I find that Ron conveniently "lost" enough receipts for project costs that his stipend was returned. We still have available the \$4,000 Charitable Grant made by Anna & Peyton Forbes for use as needed; this can be transferred from the Living Memorial Fund to the church checking account.

Regarding our usual fund-raising, as you know, we have not been able to have any Turkey Pie Suppers & the August Summer Sale/Cookie Walk was also cancelled.

However, thanks go to Sheldon Goodine & Darlene Zimmerman who headed up a "Drive-Thru" Chicken Barbecue, which was held on Saturday, August 8th. This turned out to be a tremendous success with a profit of \$793! I give a hearty "thanks" to all who made the potato salad or worked to make this event such a success. Several customers expressed appreciation to us for having the barbeque & getting them "out of the house"!



Sheldon & Darlene have expressed their wish & willingness to coordinate another "Drive-Thru" BBQ on Saturday, September 26th, so you will get another chance to

participate in this community mission fund-raising project.

During this difficult time, please remember to keep in touch by e-mail, text or phone with church friends, especially the elderly or ill, to help combat the feeling of isolation. - *Glenna Jordan, President*



Missions & Benevolence:

The Benevolence Fund continues to make a \$25 monthly contribution to the China Food Pantry; we have received no requests for additional assistance because of the pandemic.

As usual, I would like to remind folks to please support the PDF (**P**astor's **D**iscretionary **F**und) offerings on the months that have a fifth Sunday (August 30 & November 29) as these & other cash donations enable Pastor Paul to meet the 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 to help two families with rent expenses. Thanks to those who made special cash donations, as well as the fifth Sunday PDF donations, that allowed Pastor Paul to meet these requests.

Again, a very special "thank-you" to Susie who has, since the resumption of in-person church services, been providing delicious baked goods left over from her Farmer's Market baking. Our share of the donations is added to Pastor Paul's PDF account & is available when he gets calls.

One issue that you may not be aware of is the e-mail scam from someone using Pastor Paul's name to ask for gift cards. The Council members alerted all in their Flocks to be aware of this. **Please know that Pastor Paul would never ask for gift cards** as he usually checks with me regarding his PDF balance & then gets a check from the Treasurer.

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:

Our year-to-date revenue of \$32,983.54 represents a deficit of \$8,533.95 when compared to our budgeted expenses of \$41,517.49. The unbudgeted income gift of \$10,000, however, reflects a budget gain of \$1,466.05. Janet Preston will provide the Draft 2021 Preliminary Budget

to Council members prior to its September 8th meeting.

July 31, 2020 Balances:

Checkbook	\$ 5,759.06
Bank Statement	\$ 5,759.06
Faith Ames Fund	\$ 2,043.81
Memorial Funds	\$19,476.66
PDF Fund	\$ 650.00

6/11/2020 Annuity Balances:

Memorial Fund #1	\$27,126.03
Memorial Fund #2	\$27,126.03
Meader Family Fund	\$34,534.85
TOTAL:	\$88,786.91

Initial Investment:	\$81,828.14
Growth to Date:	\$ 6,958.77

Investment growth of \$6,958.77 is a total of \$1,497.03 for 2017; \$2,201.97 for 2018; \$2,260.19 for 2019; & \$999.58 for 2020. – *Respectfully, Finance Chair, John Glowa*



Building & Grounds:

I am pleased to report the Memorial Hall renovation is done! Many thanks to Bob Webber, the Abbott to my Costello. I am putting together a series of pictures to chronicle the work & will have them online shortly.

Next on the list of things to do is a touch up of the kitchen ceiling & some new wall paint in the kitchen that will match the renovated Memorial Hall. Walls not affected by the renovation will be painted to match the renovated section as well.



When we replaced the portion of the floor in Memorial Hall, I saved the old fir flooring. It has been years since we had a

portrait of the church building officially done & that reclaimed flooring makes an excellent picture frame [see below]. The grain of the wood has been clear coated, which brings out the magic of the fir. Each of the marks in the frame are 50+ years of love that I did not fully sand away...

For a \$25 donation to the General Fund, a hand numbered, limited edition collector's piece can be yours! If you're interested, please send me an e-mail at room21@outlook.com & let me know. - *Regards, Ron Maxwell, Chair*



Christian Education:
A Word About Christian Ed...

I hope you're staying well & I look forward to the time when we can all come together in person.

There is still good news! Our Lydia has been declared cancer free & will be joining us as soon as conditions allow her to.

In the meanwhile, our children (as well as the older folk) can continue to learn. I'd like to tell you a little about *Right Now Media*, which has something for all ages.

Once you log in, just go to the left-hand column & one of the first choices you'll see is "All Kids Episodes". (I'll cover the others in later issues of the newsletter.) There are kids' shows such as

"Superbook", "Bibleman", "VeggieTales", "Friends & Heroes", "Slugs & Bugs" (a cartoon series), "God Rocks" & "Bibleforce", to name a few. Hover your mouse over a selection & get a full description. Children can watch together as part of a virtual group; there are even sing-a-longs! Ages in this category are from infants to 11 years. We continue to be blessed by this resource! Please get in touch if you have questions about *Right Now Media*! Stay safe & virus free! - Blessings to All, *Emily Schroeder, Elder of Christian Education*



Communications & Outreach:

Due to Covid, most of our usual events have been canceled. The safety of our church members & others in the community comes first. I will admit that I have missed seeing & having fellowship with everyone, but I have been keeping busy working on crafts for the next safe event.

We will be making Needhams for sale as soon as the kitchen is available. If anyone knows of any stores or businesses that would let us place our Needhams for sale, please let me know.

If you have any ideas for "safe" fund-raising, please share them with the Council. - *Yours in Christ, Debbie Stowe, Chair*



Worship Committee:

When I wrote the last newsletter article to you, we were just beginning our journey through the many changes mandated by the coronavirus pandemic. At that time, we were closing the church building & moving to online only services. As circumstances changed, we were able to resume services, but in Memorial Hall. We are so fortunate to have this large, well ventilated & open space in which to meet! Ron & his boys arranged seating so that small groups of people can be distanced from others & I think the space has worked well for us. It is wonderful to be able to be together again for worship!

During the Council meeting this month, we discussed moving back into the sanctuary. I know most of us miss our beautiful worship space. However, because of the advantages of air flow & spaced seating, we decided to remain in Memorial Hall until at least after Labor Day. We will revisit the issue then. Please keep in mind that moving back to the sanctuary will not change the requirements of face covering, distancing, minimal singing & maximum of 50 people unless CDC guidelines change.

Services are still being recorded each week, so if you are unable or prefer not to attend church at this time, just visit our website southchinacommunitychurch.org & click on the current service. We are in the Sundays of the church year following Pentecost & will be until Advent begins in November.

On a different note, please keep in mind that one way to help support the church is to sponsor the monthly bulletin. The cost is \$25 & you can designate a message or remembrance to be printed in the bulletin each week for the month you sponsor. The months of September & November are still available; the sign-up sheet is

now located on the back corner of the stage, just as you enter the side door we are using.

Hymn suggestions are always welcome! Just let me know what you would like us to sing. I am praying that everyone stays safe & healthy! - *In Christian Love, Cheryl Baker, Elder of Worship*



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

- Leslie Ames (4/18/20)
- Barbara Dowe (5/5/20)
- Charles (Chuck) Sisson (5/29/20)
- Lorraine Casey (7/30/20)
- Stella (Farrington) Sisson (8/3/20)
- Margaret Glowa (8/16/20)



<https://www.guideposts.org/july4prayers>
Celebrate our nation's independence with these prayers

<https://www.guideposts.org/fearverses>
Verses to help you overcome fears & find peace with God

<https://www.guideposts.org/versesforhope>
Need a lift? Turn to these hope-filled Bible verses



Quotes from Positive Thinkers:

“No God, no peace; know God, know peace.” - Croft M. Pentz

“What matters it to what nation or sect we belong, if we love the Lord in sincerity, and our neighbors as ourselves?” – Elizabeth Fry, English prison reformer (1780-1845)

“Jesus never says, ‘Get cleaned up & then come in.’ He says, ‘Come in. I’ll clean you up.’” – Max Lucado, Author & Pastor

“Control what you can. Pray about what you can’t.” – Trent Shelton, former NFL player turned inspirational speaker

“You may not be as fast on your feet & the image in your mirror may be a little disappointing, but if you are still functioning & not in pain, gratitude should be the name of the game.” - Betty White, Actress (age 98)

“Staying positive doesn’t mean you have to be happy all the time. It means that even on hard days you know that better ones are coming.” – brightvibesmedia on Instagram

On the Lighter Side...



Q: What do you call strawberries playing the guitar?

A: A jam session

Q: What do you call a sad strawberry?

A: A blueberry

Teacher: How do you spell crocodile?

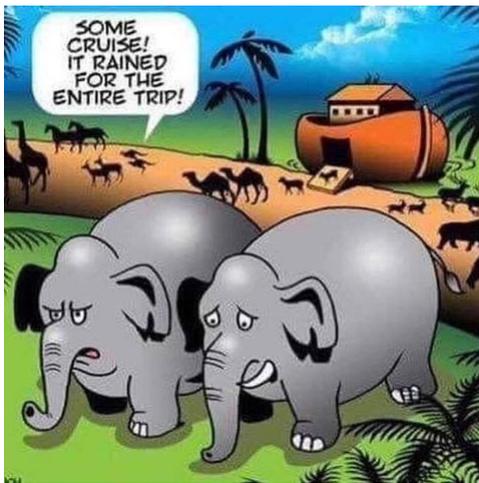
Glenn: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L

Teacher: No, that's wrong

Glenn: Maybe it's wrong, but you asked me how **I** spell it

Teacher: Sam, your composition on "My Dog" is exactly the same as your brother's. Did you copy his?

Sam: No, it's the same dog.



† **ADULT BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL ARE POSTPONED DUE TO COVID-19 UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

† **SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICE, 10AM IN MEMORIAL HALL FOR REQUIRED SOCIAL-DISTANCING. MASKS ARE REQUIRED. NO FELLOWSHIP/REFRESHMENTS AT THIS TIME. SERVICES ARE TAPED & AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING ON OUR WEB SITE.**

† **COMMUNION: SEPT 6 - OCT 4 - NOV 1**

† **COUNCIL MEETINGS: 2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 6PM: SEPT 8 - OCT 13 - NOV 10**

† **PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND (PDF) DONATION SUNDAY: AUG 30 - NOV 29**

† **RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS: MONDAYS, 7-8PM [ATTENDANCE LIMITED DUE TO CURRENT CROWD RESTRICTIONS]**

† **SEPT 26: DRIVE-THRU CHICKEN BBQ, 11:00AM UNTIL GONE! FACE MASKS & SOCIAL DISTANCING REQUIRED.**

NOTE: The Craft Fair planned for October 3rd has been cancelled due to Covid-19 safety requirements.

South China Community Church
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southchinacommunitychurch.org

*“Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me all the days of
my life and I shall dwell in the
house of the Lord forever.” -
Psalms 23:6*

