
SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH



Rev. Paul Harwath, Pastor

Fall/Winter 2020

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

When Jesus told the Apostles that He must suffer and die on the cross, Peter became very upset and said that he was not going to let that happen. This reaction is very understandable, but Jesus rebuked him saying, "Get behind Me, Satan." The reason Jesus was upset was because Peter was going against the will of God.



Sometimes it's hard to figure out what the will of God might be. To insist that we know, or for that matter that any person in the world knows God's will, is not being truthful and, in fact, may be committing a sin. No one knows the mind of God. All we can do is make decisions to our best understanding of what we believe God would want us to do and at the same time realize that at any time we might be wrong.

Families are broken and wars are started because someone claims they know the will of God. I do not know the will of God! I do know that God asked that I love Him with all my heart and all my mind and to also love my neighbor as myself. This I know for sure! For me to be angry with someone and treat them unlovingly because they might vote for some party or a person I disagree with, has a high probability of being against God's will. To treat someone unlovingly because they believe something different from yourself

is doing the opposite of the very thing God asked of us.

So always be humble knowing only that God asks us to love Him and all those whom we meet on life's journey. - *God's & my love to all of you, Pastor Paul*

*Have
Faith
in
GOD*

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

President's Report:

Our in-person meetings, with masks and social distancing, continue to be held on the second Tuesday of each month at 6PM. As always, if you have any comments or concerns, you are welcome to attend, call me at (207) 861-4134 or e-mail me at gbj@roadrunner.com.



As mentioned in the August newsletter, the proposed change to the by-laws was approved by the Council and, in an effort to save postage, will be forwarded to the congregation along with the November pledge letter from the Financial Officer.

You have already received the Proposed 2021 Preliminary Budget to guide you with the projected needs of the church when

completing your 2021 pledge. Any suggested changes to the proposed budget were to be submitted to John Glowa or me prior to our November 10th Council meeting at which time we would have our final budget discussions before John sends out the pledge letters.

The Mission Statement on our website was outdated, so it was revised and has been approved by the Council. It is now posted on the website and Council members have a copy in their notebooks.

A matter of allowing individuals to get water from the church's outside tap was recently addressed. After much email discussion, it was voted that the church should not take on the liability of providing drinking water to individuals.

A new opportunity for our church to perform a public service to the community has just occurred. The Thurston Park Committee can no longer meet at the Town Office as they have too many attending to meet the Covid guidelines. The Committee Chairman asked Ron Maxwell if they could meet monthly in our building. Since Ron is a Committee member and will be at the meetings, and the group meets the community-sponsored use of the building, the Council approved this request via email.

As you know, all church social gatherings have been cancelled and we were not able to have most of our fundraisers this year. That hurt us not only financially, but also socially, as we did not get to see special friends who attend such events. The two drive-thru barbecues were well attended, many thanks to all who participated.



Something to think about: Sheldon has advanced the idea of having more barbecues next summer if we

find we can't resume some of our other fundraisers.

As most of you know, we resumed in-person church services in Memorial Hall on June 7, with masks and social distancing by person/family. As of last week, our attendance has ranged from a low of 19 to a high of 35, so we are well under the 50-person limit allowed for our sanctuary by the current guidelines.

By the time you receive this, we expect to have returned to the sanctuary for worship services, with the same masks and social-distancing by person/family.

The back windows will be open, so additional seating will be available in Memorial Hall. We will be leaving a row empty between groups and will continue to have only one hymn and music by the Minister of Music or a substitute. There will be no greeters and the offering plate will be at the entrance to the sanctuary. Services will continue to be 30 minutes so they can be taped for the website. Prior to the move, a new ventilation system has been donated and will be installed in the sanctuary to assure safer air quality in the sanctuary. I do hope more of you will feel safe in attending our in-person services.



A reminder to those in our Church Family who do not get to see the monthly calendar: we will have our traditional Thanksgiving Eve service November 25th at 6PM, followed by the holiday decorating on November 28th at 9AM, as Advent I is November 29th.

This will be my last message to you as Council President, as I will not be a Council member in 2021. I have served in several positions during my many years in our Church family and could have taken

another office. However, I sincerely feel it is time for younger folks to meet the challenges that this church faces now and in the future. We are fortunate to have talented younger people in our Church Family who are willing to serve. *Blessings to all, Glenna Jordan, President*



Missions & Benevolence:

The Benevolence Fund continues to make a \$25 monthly contribution to the China Food Pantry; we've received no requests for additional assistance related to the pandemic. Since we no longer provide families with Thanksgiving baskets, we do have a budgeted expense to make a \$100 donation to the Food Pantry to help with the holiday baskets they provide. Unless I receive negative comments regarding this, I will plan to make the donation.

As usual, I'm reminding people to please support PDF (**P**astor's **D**iscretionary **F**und) offerings on the months that have a 5th Sunday (November 29 and January 31), as these and other cash donations enable Pastor Paul to meet the emergency requests that he receives without asking the congregation for special donations. The aid requests he has received since our last newsletter were for helping a family with medical expenses and two other families with fuel expenses. Thanks to those who made special cash donations, as well as PDF donations that allowed Pastor Paul to meet these requests.



Again, a very special "thank-you" to Susie, who provides delicious baked goods left over from her Farmer's Market baking. Our share of the donations is added to Pastor

Paul's PDF account and is available when he gets calls. Incidentally, because of the requests for assistance, the PDF account would be over-budget if not for the proceeds donated from Susie's food contributions.

Advent Season is ahead of us and you will be kept informed of any families who are referred to Pastor Paul for our gift giving.

This will be my last message to you as Chair of the Benevolence Committee. Per our by-laws, I am termed-out of office, having served six years of my own, plus completing Churchill's term and Bob Scarduzzio's term a few years back. I am pleased to tell you that, if elected at the January Annual Meeting, Patrick Vigue has agreed to chair this Committee. I know he would be an excellent leader and hope he has your support. To help Patrick in this new office, Marge Kurtzman, Lindsey Harwath and I have offered to continue serving on the Benevolence Committee.

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



Finance & Stewardship:

Happy Fall! Our church finances continue to do well thanks to the unbudgeted donation of \$10,000 earlier in the year. Our budgeted actual revenue for the year to date is \$49,848. This is approximately \$11,000 behind what we had projected for revenue as of the end of October and is mainly due to the shortfalls in projected loose offerings and fundraisers.

Our expenses to date total \$58,435; without the \$10,000 our expenses exceed revenue by \$8,587. With this generous gift, we are at a \$1,413 surplus for the year to date.

Statement Balances, October 31, 2020:
Faith Ames Music Fund.....\$2,044.06
Memorial Funds Savings.....\$20,229.16
Current Checkbook Balance.....\$7,489.86
PDF Balance.....\$150.00
Total Available Funds.....\$29,913.08

Delaware Life Annuities, March 10, 2020:
Memorial Fund #1.....\$27,427.03
Memorial Fund #2.....\$27,427.03
Meader Family Fund.....\$34,918.06
Total Annuities Value.....\$89,772.12
Total Financial Assets.....\$119,685.20

Thank you all for your continued support and generosity! – *Respectfully, Finance Chair, John Glowa*



Building & Grounds:

In preparation for worship's return to the sanctuary, we have updated our sanctuary with an air removal system. A 500-cubic foot per minute fan has been installed to remove the air from the sanctuary in approximately 15 minutes. This will allow us to safely meet in the sanctuary without the need to open windows... a necessary step in Maine in winter 😊

This one-way movement of air is not just a defense against COVID. Next summer, this system should prove very cooling as it will draw out all the heat that usually makes us miserable. We have an air conditioning unit that is almost big enough

for the sanctuary and this removal of hot air should make that unit's job easier.

Spring cleaning will have to accomplish some traditionally fall outside tasks next year as our current focus has been inside, with the major renovation in Memorial Hall and now the air system upgrade.

My thanks to the anonymous donors who paid for the air system for the sanctuary. I am always grateful for God's provision through His people for the needs of His church. - *Regards, Ron Maxwell, Chair*



Christian Education:
Right Now Media, continued...

Happy Fall! While we continue to be "on hold" when it comes to our classes, I'm back to remind you that we have a wonderful resource in Right Now Media. Logging on is easy: simply go to RightNowMedia.org, then use your e-mail address followed by "SouthChinaCC" as the password, and you're in!

Last time we covered the kids' section. Let's continue with the "youth" category, as found in the left-hand column of the home page.

Here's what's available:

- ♦ Youth Bible studies
- ♦ Biblical basics (apologetics, prayer, parables, Bible books)
- ♦ Relationships (identity and dating)
- ♦ Our relationship with God (for example, the "Who is God?" series by Francis Chan)
- ♦ Big questions (like creation and doctrine)
- ♦ Presentations for guys and girls, including courage and self-image

- ♦ The Kingstone Bible, which is a graphic adaptation
- ♦ "Living Out Your Faith"
- ♦ Christianity and culture (relating to the world)
- ♦ The Bible Project (a cartoon format)
- ♦ "Stinkin' Funny Youth Videos" (really!)
- ♦ Short, thought-provoking clips, some with youth speaking on various issues
- ♦ Training for youth workers and the Mike Steinkamp Skate Ministries, which uses skateboarding as a vehicle for sharing the Word

Your young person can download the preferred app and s/he is on her/his way. Truly, there is something in Right Now Media for everyone, of any age. I hope you'll take a few minutes and do some exploring.

In the meantime, take care and stay safe and healthy. We'll be together again in person once this virus subsides. Prayers and blessings to you all! - *Emily Schroeder, Elder of Christian Education*



Communications & Outreach:

I pray that everyone is being blessed in this season. Blessings come in many ways, sometimes it's after the fact that you realize that you indeed had a Blessing. If I can share a quick story, in my life that has happened a few times.

I remember when I moved into my parents' home to help take care of my father. Wouldn't you know I fell and broke my wrist. During that time, I was unable to work. I did get to spend time with my

Dad that under normal circumstances I wouldn't have had. Dad had a dry sense of humor so you can imagine the many different ways he made fun of my being clumsy so that I didn't have to work. All done in good fun, even when he had to tie my shoes! Wouldn't trade that time for anything. Sometimes it pays to look back at things and realize how God made whatever happened for good.

If anyone is interested, the kitchen is now available for use; all of the repairs are



done. So, if anyone needs Needhams, we should be able to supply you with all you want. If anyone has a contact with a store or business that would let us sell Needhams, please let me know as this will help boost the church's budget during Covid. That is my hope for the Needhams!

If I can help anyone please let me know. God bless everyone! - *Debbie Stowe*
Communication & Outreach Chair



Worship Committee:

Here I go - writing my last newsletter article as Chair of the Worship Committee. The final year of my second term is ending, and I will be going off the Council in January.

My first news: the price of sponsoring the bulletin for one month has been reduced to \$20. Please consider this as a way to honor a loved one and support the church. A message of remembrance or honor will be printed in the bulletin each week for the sponsored month. The sign-up sheet

is in Memorial Hall and all months except December are available in 2021.

Will we be worshipping in the sanctuary when you receive this letter? I am hopeful, but recent surges in virus numbers make me unsure. I feel Memorial Hall has served us well, and we are so blessed to have this big open space in which to worship together. Please keep in mind that, as we return, we will still have to wear mandated face covering and practice social distancing. This is not easy to do, but is what we need do to protect everyone.



The return to the sanctuary comes as we start our new church year, which begins with Advent, starting on November 29 this year. At SCCC, we follow the Revised Common Lectionary with prescribed readings each Sunday. It runs in three-year cycles: Gospel readings in the first year (Year A) are taken primarily from the Gospel of Matthew; those in the second year (Year B), from the Gospel of Mark; and those in the third year (Year C), from the Gospel of Luke. Readings from John appear in special seasons throughout the year. We are just finishing Year A of the cycle and will be starting Year B at the beginning of Advent.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve as Elder of Worship. It has been a very rewarding experience! I have learned much about all the work that is required for the operation of our church, have been honored to serve communion, assist with the work of the church, and have had much fun meeting with the Worship Committee and selecting music. I truly appreciate your support, suggestions and comments over these years. - *In Christian Love, Cheryl Baker, Elder of Worship*



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

Alison Poulin (Barbara's daughter, 7/13/20)
Edward Kimball (Paula Vigue's son, 8/24/20)
Hal Winters (9/2/20)
Joyce Goodine (11/1/20)
June Wood (Summer attendee, 11/4/20)



Quotes from Positive Thinkers

“When you talk, you are only repeating what you know. But if you listen, you may learn something new.” – Dalai Lama

“Have faith in your journey. Everything had to happen exactly as it did to get you where you’re going next.” – Mandy Hale, Author & Inspirational Speaker

“There is magic in endurance: it’s allowing a stumbling block to become a stepping stone.” – Rev. Run & his wife, Justine Simmons

“Each day comes bearing its gifts. Untie the ribbons.” - Ruth Ann Schabacker





<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer/7-thanksgiving-prayers-encouraging-and-inspiring.html>

30 Thanksgiving Prayers

<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/prayer/christmas-prayers-and-blessings.html>

30 Christmas Prayers and Blessings



† **ADULT BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL ARE POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

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

† **COMMUNION: DEC 6 - JAN 3 - FEB 7 - MARCH 7**

† **COUNCIL MEETINGS: 2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 6PM: DEC 8 - JAN 12 - FEB 9 - MARCH 9**

† **PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND (PDF) DONATION SUNDAY: NOV 29 - JAN 31**

† ***RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS HAVE BEEN RECESSED DUE TO COVID-19 CONCERNS**

† **THURSTON PARK COMMITTEE MEETINGS: 3RD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 6:30PM: DEC 15 - JAN 19 - FEB 16 - MARCH 16**

† **NOVEMBER 25: THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE, 6PM**

† **NOVEMBER 28: HOLIDAY DECORATING, 9AM**

† **NOVEMBER 29: ADVENT I
DECEMBER 6: ADVENT II
DECEMBER 13: ADVENT III
DECEMBER 20: ADVENT IV**

† **DECEMBER 24: CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, 7PM**

† **CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE: 10AM**

On the Lighter Side...



Q: What do skeletons order at a restaurant?

A: Spareribs

Q: What do elves learn in school?

A: The Elfabet

Q: Why isn't the turkey hungry at Thanksgiving?

A: Because he's already stuffed!

Q: What do get if you cross a Snowman with a Vampire?

A: Frostbite

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“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

