
SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH



Rev. Paul Harwath, Pastor

Summer 2021

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

What is a true Christian? True Christians think before they speak. Always honest & considerate of others' feelings. They do their best to love God with all their effort, reading scripture & sharing the Gospel of love with those they meet. They help reach out to those in need, furthering the church's mission. They have no leader but God's self in Jesus Christ. Holding any other person up as their leader is idolatry.

It is good to have different ideas & ways of thinking, even if you don't agree. As Christians, we have agreed to love one another, even our enemies. To listen to those who preach disdain for others is to help spread hate & division. This is not the Gospel! This is evil!

We must at all times try & behave as true Christians. Many of today's so-called Christians do not follow the Gospel of God's love. For some reason, hate has taken over many of God's people. Don't let this happen to you. Follow only the One True God & true ruler of this world, Jesus Christ. - *God's love & mine is with you all, Pastor Paul*



CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

President's Report:

The Council continues to meet at 6PM on the 2nd Tuesday of the month, maintaining social distancing & recognizing that the increasing Covid-19 cases may require additional precaution in the coming weeks. In the meantime, please let a Council member know if you would like to attend & we'll put out a chair for you! Any concerns or questions are always welcome. Send me an e-mail (buffywg@yahoo.com) or call me at home: (207) 445-3571.



If you're interested, have questions or feel moved by the Spirit to serve our church, don't hesitate to speak with the Council member who heads the committee that most appeals to you. We can always use more helping hands!

The Council plans to review the preliminary budget in September. The Finance Officer will present it to the congregation for comments in October, followed by the November mailing of our annual pledge letter/request. Having the pledge information before the end of the year has been helpful in our final planning.

In-person church services (masks optional & social-distancing) continue; services are still being recorded & are available on our

web site. The Council will discuss resuming Fellowship at its September meeting. Many thanks to Pastor Paul, Chris Faris, Russell Poulin & choir participants who help bring our services back to "normal." We hope to see more of you as vaccines are distributed & the pandemic hopefully subsides. Stay safe & God Bless! - *Emily Schroeder*



Missions & Benevolence:

The Benevolence Fund continues to make a \$25 monthly contribution to the China Food Pantry. Pastor Paul did receive a couple of requests for assistance which we were able help with. Please let Pastor Paul or me know of anyone needing emergency assistance.

I want to remind people to please support the PDF (**P**astor's **D**iscretionary **F**und) offerings on the months that have a 5th Sunday (August 29th & October 31st), as these & other cash donations enable Pastor Paul to meet emergency requests that he receives without having to ask the congregation for special donations. Thank you to those who have made special cash contributions, as well as the PDF & generous donations towards the weekly bake sale (Susie's treats).



A very special "thank you" to Susie, who provides delicious baked goods left over from her Saturdays at the Farmer's Market. Our share of the donations is added to Pastor Paul's PDF account & is available when he

gets calls. Incidentally, because of the requests for assistance last year, the PDF account would have been over budget if not for the proceeds donated from Susie's food contributions. Thanks again for your sharing & caring & "God Bless." - *Patrick Vigue, Deacon/Benevolence Chair*



Finance & Stewardship:

Happy Summer! Once again, our church finances continue to hold their own, thanks to lower than anticipated expenses & higher than anticipated offerings.

As of June 30, 2021, our budgeted actual revenue for the year to date is \$30,493.70; our expenses as of June 30, 2021 were \$30,433.65 for a **surplus** so far this year of \$60.05. Our budgeted revenue is \$5,178.45 less than anticipated, due primarily to less than anticipated fundraising revenue. On the positive side, our expenses are also \$10,477 less than anticipated for this time of the year.

Statement Balances as of June 30, 2021:

Faith Ames Music Fund.....	\$2,094.75
Memorial Funds.....	\$23,826.73
Checkbook Balance.....	\$5,819.51
Total Available Funds.....	\$31,740.99

Delaware Annuities as of August 2, 2021:

Memorial Fund #1.....	\$27,946.82
Memorial Fund #2.....	\$27,946.82
Meader Family Fund.....	\$35,579.81
Total Annuities Value.....	\$91,473.45

Total Financial Assets.....\$123,214.44

Thank you all for your continued support & generosity! Now let's see what we can do to grow our membership! – Respectfully, Finance Chair, John Glowa



Building & Grounds:

This has been a short summer! Renovations at home have monopolized my time & delayed outside work at the church building, but I am happy to say that there is slow progress to report.

There has been a dying tree in the front of the building for a bit now & I have prepared you all for its removal. It was using resources that the second tree would thrive with. It was dying & on the verge of shedding broken parts. It has been removed. The tree came down with minimal disruption & the removal cleanup took a couple of days.



While I regret that it needed to be removed, I am thrilled it is gone & grateful for God's blessings in the process. Tree removal can be dangerous & God was gracious - neither building nor human was injured in the removal. - *Regards, Ron Maxwell, Deacon Buildings & Grounds*



Christian Education:

Happy Summer! Hard to believe that fall will be starting in a few weeks. Once again, the Covid situation has caused us to delay all our normal activities & we still can't plan anything with certainty. When it comes to Sunday School, we must consider the facts that children under 12 cannot be vaccinated & our Sunday School teacher is battling a major illness. If/when we decide to resume classes, you'll be the first to know!

In the meantime, we have an excellent online resource for all ages in RightNowMedia.org. This is an ideal time to take advantage of it. Please let me or Pastor Paul know if you need assistance with logging on. Take care & stay safe! Love & Blessings – *Emily Schroeder, Elder, Christian Education*



Sunday School

Communications & Outreach:

We've been busy since February making Needhams to sell from Tobey's. I want to thank everyone who has donated ingredients; thanks also to Tina for helping me make them & especially to Phil for becoming an outstanding member of the kitchen group! In addition, Janey has helped when she can. What a blessing it has been to have people do whatever they felt led to help keep this project going. So far, we have sold over \$1,300. Not bad for one store!

We have had one BBQ in July, followed by the big Annual BBQ, Rummage Sale, & Cookie Walk/Sale on August 14. A full

report & final tallies will be announced as soon as the information is available.

My term on the Council ends in December, so if anyone feels led or interested in taking on the duties of Communication & Outreach, please let me know... or you can speak to Emily, as she is the President of the Council. There is a notebook that comes with the position, which was a great help when I first started, not to mention all the great folks in our church who have held this position in the past. Something to pray about! - *Blessings to everyone, Debbie Stowe, Chair for Communication & Outreach*

NOTE: Please correct your Flock Lists with these recent e-mail & address changes:

Sheldon Goodine:
sheldonthemason@roadrunner.com

Janet Preston:
jmpreston61@gmail.com

Jack, Marge & Jennifer Kurtzman
140 Ashland Point
Hendersonville, TN 37075

Worship Committee:

We've resumed our regular order of service, complete with three hymns & partial choir. No masks are necessary for those who have been vaccinated.

Ian Maxwell has started a second choir that meets Wednesday evenings at 7:30. The group is working on some challenging pieces & will sing in church



occasionally throughout the year. Please see Ian if you're interested in joining!

We have spent \$100 so far this year for the guest pastor when Paul was away. Budgeted expenses for that line are \$200, so we are in good shape. We have received \$125 toward bulletin expenses out of a budgeted \$200. If you would like to honor someone dear to you, please sign up for a remembrance in the bulletin. The \$20 helps to support our paper & toner needs for printing for the service each week.



We thank Russ Poulin for recording the service each week to share with non-attending members & the general public. The videos are posted on our website.

Glenna has taken over providing weekly flowers for the service. Thank you so much for your generosity with your time & money!

Let me know if you have any suggestions for our worship service. I am always open to hearing new ideas. - *Respectfully, Janet Preston, Worship Chair*



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

- Wilmot Rufus Jones III: 1/13/21
- Angie Rivera: 4/19/21 (Rosie Feihel's mother)
- Louise (Nichols) Beale: 4/29/21
- H. Carlton Casey: 7/29/21



<https://www.guideposts.org/gardening>

Gardening is good for you! Click on the link for six tips on tapping into its restorative power.

Quotes from Positive Thinkers



“To plant a garden is to believe in tomorrow.” – Audrey Hepburn, Actress

“Most big transformations come about from the hundreds of tiny, almost imperceptible, steps we take along the way.” – Lori Gottlieb, Therapist & Author

“I think that if God forgives us, we must forgive ourselves. Otherwise it is almost like setting up ourselves as a higher tribunal than Him.” – C.S. Lewis, Author



On the Lighter Side...

Q: What comes once in a minute, twice in a moment, but never in a thousand years?

A: The letter “m”

Q: What do you call a clairvoyant midget who just broke out of jail?

A: A small medium at large

Did you hear about the crook who stole a calendar? He got 12 months.

Velcro: What a rip-off

The boating store was having a big sale on canoes. It was quite an oar deal.

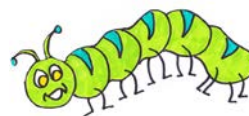


A single guy decided life would be more fun if he had a pet. So, he went to the pet store & told the owner that he wanted to buy an unusual pet. After some discussion, he finally bought a talking centipede (100-legged bug), which came in a little white box to use for his house.

He took the box back home, found a good spot for it & decided he would start off by taking his new pet to church with him. So, he asked the centipede in the box, “Would you like to go to church with me today? We’ll have a good time.” But there was no answer from his new pet.

This bothered him a bit, but he waited a few minutes & then asked again, “How about going to church with me & receive blessings?” But again, there was no answer from his new friend, so he waited a few minutes more, thinking about the situation.

The guy decided to invite the centipede one last time. This time, he put his face up against the centipede’s house & shouted, “Hey in there, WOULD YOU LIKE TO GO TO CHURCH WITH ME & LEARN ABOUT GOD?”



This time, a little voice came out of the box: “I heard you the first time! I’m putting my shoes on!”



Fall, Family, and Friends

(From David Jeremiah's "Turning Point")

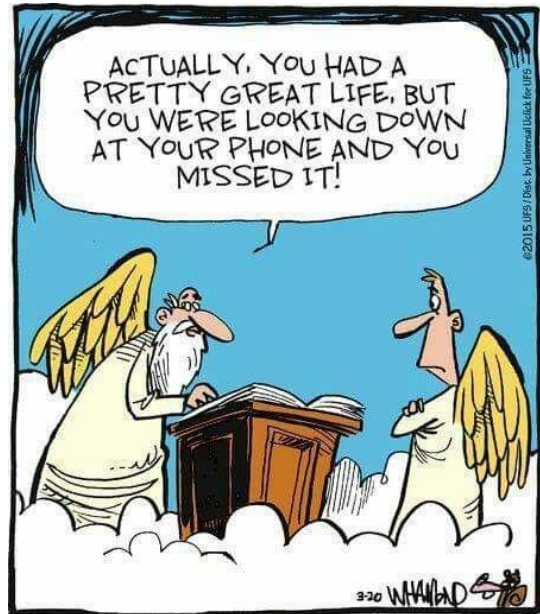
I can't prove this, of course, but I think God made fall just for family & friends. Any time is a great time for being with those we love & appreciate, but fall seems special. Think about the reasons why this time of year is a great time for relationships & reunions:

- School. This is a *huge* one. As much as kids imply that they don't like school, most kids love the social reunion that returning to school brings. But it's not just the kids—parents enjoy seeing each other again at school & sporting events.

- Church. Because of travel & vacations, some churches make adjustments to their regularly scheduled programs during the summer. But after summer is over, everything gets back to normal. Suddenly, you're seeing friends at church & in small groups that you've not seen consistently during the summer.

- Thanksgiving. If there's one event where families & friends connect, it has to be Thanksgiving. It seems people like to celebrate Christmas—at least Christmas morning—with just family. But in America, Thanksgiving is the day we fling open the doors, tell people to bring a dish, spread it all out, & thank God for the blessings we enjoy.

It's easy to take family & friends for granted. Write down some ways that you can express your love & appreciation for them & then carry them out. Make this season a time to refocus on your family & those other special people in your life.



The woodpecker might have to go.



- † **ADULT BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL ARE POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**
- † **SUNDAY SERVICE, 10AM WITH SOCIAL-DISTANCING. MASKS OPTIONAL FOR THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN VACCINATED. NO FELLOWSHIP/REFRESHMENTS AT THIS TIME. SERVICES ARE TAPED & AVAILABLE FOR VIEWING ON OUR WEB SITE.**
- † **COMMUNION: SEPT 5 - OCT 3 - NOV 7**
- † **COUNCIL MEETINGS: 2ND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 6PM: SEP 14 - OCT 12 - NOV 9**
- † **PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND (PDF) DONATION SUNDAY: AUGUST 29 - OCT 31**
- † ***RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS HAVE BEEN RECESSED DUE TO COVID-19 CONCERNS**
- † **THURSTON PARK COMMITTEE MEETINGS: 3RD TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 6:30PM: SEPT 21 - OCT 19 - NOV 16**
- † **TBD: TURKEY PIE SUPPER IN SEPTEMBER**
- † **TBD: CRAFT FAIR IN OCTOBER**



Biblical Verses about Autumn

Isaiah 40:8 The grass withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever.

Ecclesiastes 3:1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven.

2 Corinthians 9:10 He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.

Psalms 85:12 Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

Psalms 107:37 They sow fields and plant vineyards and get a fruitful yield.

Matthew 9:37-38 Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore, pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest."

Isaiah 9:3 You have multiplied the nation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as they are glad when they divide the spoil.

Genesis 1:29-30 And God said, "Behold, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the earth, and every tree with seed in its fruit. You shall have them for food. And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the heavens and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food." And it was so.

Proverbs 14:4 Where there are no oxen, the manger is clean, but abundant crops come by the strength of the ox.



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*“...Yet for us there is one God,
the Father, from whom are all
things and for whom we exist...”*
– 1 Corinthians 8:6

