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# SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Rev. Paul Harwath, Pastor

Autumn/Winter 2021

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## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

This year we will need to bring hope & joy to the people we come in contact with. Christ gives us the power to do this. The Christmas season always has a way of making that job easier. Even people of little faith somehow lighten up at this time of year.

With the pandemic still raging, our news media continually, every day, over & over, put on a false face of outrage over some perceived evil action by their political nemesis. They try to instill fear & loathing for those people who think differently than we do. This, of course, changes depending upon what network you're watching. Our leaders are portrayed as angels or the devil himself. It becomes obvious that the truth is not available to us. Or is it?

The only truth that matters & the only leader we ever need, is with us! We are preparing to celebrate His coming to us in human form, to bring the love of God, forgiveness of sins, & eternal life. Now THAT is good news!

Yes, we sound like a broken record sometimes, but we all need to hear the "Good News" over & over. The world tries to drown out this message! Every day, evil is trying to drown out the news of God's love given to each of us. Each of us has the power to overcome this evil. Let's celebrate the coming of our Lord, because it really is the one truth we can be sure of. - *God's love and mine be with all of you, Pastor Paul*



## President's Report:

*Thankfulness.*

At this time of year, we pause to consider what we're thankful for. We're blessed with friends, family, homes, meaningful work, hobbies, our fur babies, etc. I find myself most grateful for all of you, my church family. Through this pandemic & its trials, you have remained strong & faithful. James instructed the Jewish Christians (Ch. 1, Vs. 2): "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds...". We may not be entirely joyful when dealing with this virus, but we are loving & supportive of one another!

We have managed to hold in-person & on-line services, have had fundraisers like the rummage sale, drive-thru chicken BBQs & turkey pie lunch.



Thanks to Debbie Stowe, we produce & sell delicious candy. We also maintain ties outside the church by giving to those in need.

The church has been able to meet its financial obligations, but expenses will be increasing. Please read John's pledge letter prayerfully & with this in mind.

In the very near future, we need to fill two Council seats: Missions & Benevolence, as well as Communications & Outreach. If you're interested in or have questions about either of these positions, do ask Pastor Paul, a Council member, or me.

Lastly, please encourage your friends & neighbors to attend our services. Perhaps they will join our wonderful family!

As we approach Advent & the Christmas season, may you be richly blessed! - *I remain gratefully yours, Emily Schroeder, Council President*



**Missions & Benevolence:**

Sadly, I inform you that, for personal reasons, Patrick Vigue has resigned his position as Deacon & Chair of the Benevolence Committee. As a Deacon & long-time member & former Chair of the Benevolence Committee, I am temporarily filling the office & praying that someone within our Church Family will feel the call to lead this important part of our Church Ministry.

The Benevolence Fund continues to make a \$25 monthly contribution to the China Food Pantry & will make a special donation to help with the Thanksgiving Baskets they provide. We have not received any requests for food assistance since our last newsletter.



There are no more 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays this year, but donations to the PDF (**P**astor's **D**iscretionary **F**und) are always welcome & put to good use. Pastor Paul has used PDF funds to assist needy people with medical expenses, rent, oil, & electric bills.

I would be remiss if I did not extend a very special "thank-you" to Susie, who continues to provide her delicious baked goods left over from her Farmer's Market

baking. People have been most generous & our share of the donations has greatly assisted in funding Pastor Paul's PDF account.

With December around the corner, I ask that you let Pastor Paul or me know of any families who could use assistance with Christmas gifts or food. If, like last year, we receive no requests, we will contact the China School to see if there are children we could help. Advent is a very special time & we are called to be mindful of the needs of those around us.

Again, as I said in the first paragraph, my assistance is temporary & I pray that someone within our Church Family will feel the call to lead this important part of our Church Ministry. If so, please contact Emily Schroeder, our Council President. Thanks for your sharing & caring. - *God Bless, Glenna Jordan, Assisting Deacon*



**Finance & Stewardship:**

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

As of October 31, 2021, our budgeted actual revenue for the year to date is \$54,951.95. Our expenses as of October 31, 2021 total \$54,071.40 for a **surplus** so far this year of \$880.55. Our budgeted revenue is \$5,416.30 less than anticipated due primarily to less than anticipated fundraising revenue. On the positive side, our expenses are also approximately \$5,144.00 less than anticipated for this time of the year.

Statement Balances as of 10/31/21:

Faith Ames Music Fund.....\$2,075.10  
Memorial Fund.....\$25,055.86  
Current Checkbook.....\$10,905.10

Total Available Funds.....\$38,036.06

Delaware Life Annuities as of 11/15/21:

Memorial Fund #1.....\$28,157.89  
Memorial Fund #2.....\$28,157.89  
Meader Family Fund.....\$35,848.53

Total Annuities Value.....\$92,164.31

Total Financial Assets.....\$130,200.37

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:**

I'm sure you've all noticed that the dead tree out front is gone; we're hoping its "sister" will come back healthier. I'm going to check with the town office to see if a permit is required to move our sign, along with solar lights, to the stump area, parallel to the road where it can be seen more easily.

The next project will be scraping & painting the ramp, which will eventually be replaced, along with the front porch railings. Some of the bushes getting out of control near the ramp will be removed & ground cover will fill in the area. –  
*Regards, Ron Maxwell, Deacon Building & Grounds*



**Christian Education:**

We are hoping to start in-person Sunday School in January, with many thanks to our teacher, Lydia Biswell. The children can be vaccinated by that time & we feel all will be relatively safe. Do let Pastor Paul, Lydia or me know if you have children who wish to attend. And, pray that the virus will subside & there will be no more restrictions! - *Thanks so much, Emily Schroeder, Elder*

**Children's Sunday School**



**Communications & Outreach:**

As of October 31<sup>st</sup>, we have sold 2,673 Needhams! Each package bears a sticker stating that it comes from the *S. China Community Church Kitchen*. What a great way to promote our church! So far, we have two locations: Tobey's Grocery in South China & Uncle Dean's Natural Food Market in Waterville, plus what we sell at church. I must thank Phil Choate for his help each Wednesday. Many thanks to everyone who has donated or purchased Needhams. If anyone has the ability or interest to find & deliver them to another location, please let me know. We're always willing to make more!

We are planning on two projects for the end of the year. The first is a drive-thru candy sale, possibly with a bake sale, on December 11<sup>th</sup> from 10AM until 12 noon. Storm date is December 18<sup>th</sup>!

The second project, hopefully, is to make the Christmas bough arrangements for folks to bring to shut-ins or anyone who might want a bit of Christmas spirit. Speaking of that, I will miss Jack Kurtzman this year. He has beautiful

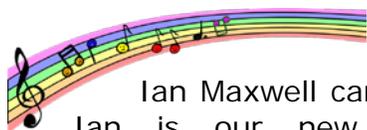
penmanship & always signed the Christmas cards that go with the arrangements. You & Marge are missed, but I know you love being near all your family.

My prayer for everyone is to have a safe & happy Christmas. – *Debbie Stowe, Chair for Communications & Outreach*



### **Worship Committee:**

Well, the big news is that Chris Faris has retired as the Minister of Music & Ian Maxwell has been hired as our new Music Director! We are very sorry to see Chris go, after so many (29) years of amazing song writing, choir directing, children's messages, Sunday School programs, cooking soup suppers, etc. He contributed so much more than just piano playing. We miss him & wish him peace in his retirement.



We're incredibly fortunate that Ian Maxwell came to our rescue. Ian is our new, very talented, enthusiastic & creative Music Director. The choir is really enjoying working with him. Thank you & welcome, Ian!

As for our finances, we have spent \$220 this year for a guest pastor & pianist. Budgeted expenses for that are \$470, so we are in good shape. We have received \$150 toward our bulletins, out of a budgeted \$200. Please use the sign-up sheet in Memorial Hall to remember a loved one in our bulletin. The suggested donation for the remembrance is \$20. Only \$50 to go to meet our goal!

Our worship services are in-person & continue to be recorded & posted on our website for on-line viewing. We are following the CDC guidelines for distancing & masking & appreciate everyone's cooperation.

We honored our veterans on November 14<sup>th</sup> with patriotic music & Pastor Paul's acknowledgement of their service, both in combat & non-combat roles.

Thanks go to Glenna Jordan for providing beautiful floral arrangements each week.

This year Christmas is on Saturday. Services will be held at 7PM on Christmas Eve (Friday), at 10AM Christmas morning (Saturday), & 10AM Sunday morning. Paul will be busy! - *Happy Thanksgiving, Janet Preston, Worship Chair*



### **Did You Know...**

The Christmas star not only symbolizes the star of Bethlehem, but also the heavenly sign of a prophecy fulfilled long ago & the shining hope for humanity?

A ribbon is tied around a gift to represent how people should all be tied together in bonds of unity & goodwill during the holiday season?

The color green signifies everlasting light and life? And the wreath is a circular, never-ending symbol of eternal love and rebirth? Today, the wreath symbolizes generosity, giving, & the gathering of family.



Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. ~Calvin Coolidge

What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. ~Agnes M. Pahro

Christmas is a season not only of rejoicing, but of reflection. ~Winston Churchill

It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving. ~Mother Teresa

All the Christmas presents in the world are worth nothing without the presence of Christ. ~David Jeremiah

The Son of God became a man to enable men to become the sons of God. ~C.S. Lewis



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

Ann Erlich (11/2/21)

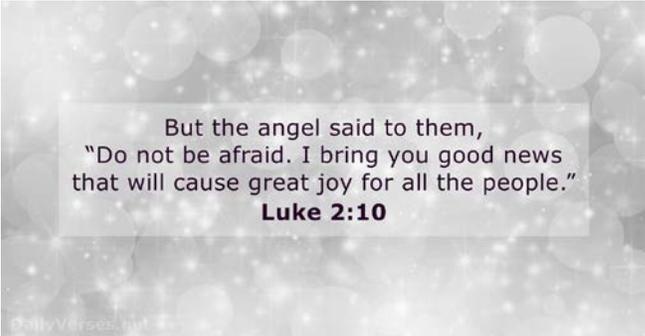
In an attempt to save copying & mailing costs, we're exploring the idea of sending the newsletter via e-mail or providing the link to our web site. Please let me, Debbie Stowe or Emily Schroeder know if you'd like to be on the e-mail distribution list. ~Jayne (Winters)



- ✝ TBA: ADULT BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9AM
- ✝ SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICE, 10AM
- ✝ COMMUNION: DEC 5 - JAN 2 - FEB 6 - MARCH 6
- ✝ COUNCIL MEETINGS: 2<sup>ND</sup> TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 6PM: DEC 14 - JAN 11 - FEB 8 - MARCH 8
- ✝ PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND (PDF)  
DONATION SUNDAY: JAN 30
- ✝ RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS: MONDAYS, 7-8PM  
[ATTENDANCE LIMITED DUE TO CURRENT BAN]
- ✝ THURSTON PARK MEETINGS: 3<sup>RD</sup> THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 6:30PM: NOV 18 - DEC 16 - JAN 20 - FEB 17 - MARCH 16
- ✝ NOV 24: THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE, 6PM
- ✝ NOV 27: HANGING OF THE GREENS, 9AM
- ✝ NOV 28: ADVENT BEGINS  
DEC 5: ADVENT II  
DEC 12: ADVENT III  
DEC 19: ADVENT IV
- ✝ DEC 11: CANDY SALE, 10AM - 12 NOON **NOTE:**  
SNOW DATE WILL BE DEC 18
- ✝ DEC 24: CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE, 7PM
- ✝ DEC 25: CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE, 10AM
- ✝ JAN 2: EPIPHANY SERVICES, 10AM
- ✝ JAN 8: DE-HANGING OF THE GREENS, 9AM
- ✝ JAN 30: ANNUAL MEETING, 11AM AFTER SERVICE

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*“But he said to them, ‘I must preach the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns as well; for I was sent for this purpose.’- Luke 4:43*



But the angel said to them,  
“Do not be afraid. I bring you good news  
that will cause great joy for all the people.”  
**Luke 2:10**