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# SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Rev. Paul Harwath, Pastor

Summer/Fall 2022

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## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

What is most important in your life? I hear many different answers to that question, such as: my family, my career, having fun, getting my next high, getting even with those I disagree with, gaining power, getting rich. The list is endless.



Why is having a relationship with God not on most people's list, let alone at the top of it? All these other distractions are worth nothing if you do not have a relationship with God. You are wasting your life on things that will perish & come to an abrupt end. The only part of one's life of any value when facing eternity is your Father in Heaven & your relationship with Him.

I have sat with many people during their last moments on earth. Some of them spent no time trying to build a relationship with God until they were on their death bed. At that moment, it becomes the most important & urgent task to these people, who just months before gave God not a thought. These lives could have been much more loving & fulfilling with a richness that only those who love God dearly can understand.

Having a relationship with God is the entire reason for our existence, not just for a fleeting moment at the end of our lives. That is because God is our existence & our life! With God loving each of us, we get to keep this gift for all eternity, if we have this relationship.

All else has little meaning. - *God's love and mine be with all of you, Pastor Paul*



## CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

### President's Report:

Happy late summer to all! Our little church has weathered some storms of late, but rest assured, "...God's solid foundation stands firm." (2 Timothy 2:19) We've lost some members & attendees over misunderstandings & differences that seemed insurmountable. As a Council, we're also learned that we should have involved all of you earlier in our decision-making. We vow to do better going forward.



We've hosted successful fundraisers this year: a turkey pie drive-through lunch on June 4th, a turkey pie supper on July 2nd, & our Annual Chicken BBQ & Rummage Sale on August 13th. We hope to have more meals this fall. Your support & assistance during these events is very much appreciated.

The unfortunate reality is that we are not receiving enough income & must dip into our reserves to pay bills & salaries. We hope you will prayerfully consider how you can help, especially when making your pledge for 2023.

We also need new members & welcome your ideas for filling our pews. Invite your friends & neighbors! Let us know what you think; talk with a Council member or Pastor Paul. Feel free to attend a Council meeting - they are open to you!

Our church is fortunate as Diane Rawson has stepped in as Communications & Outreach Chair, at least while she is in Maine. She'd like to have someone to Co-chair & cover the winter months she is away in the sunny south. The Council also needs to fill the Finance Chair position. If you feel moved to serve the church in either capacity, please talk to any Council member or Pastor Paul.

I'll close here so others can present their reports. Know this: "The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress." (Psalm 46:11). - *Peace and Love, Emily Schroeder, Council President*



**Missions & Benevolence:**

These past five months we were able to help four people put oil in their tanks & assist two people with their electric bills through Pastor Paul's connection with the Salvation Army. Due to the great generosity of church members, we donated \$420 to the World Central Kitchen in Ukraine to help with its ongoing relief efforts as the country struggles during its war with Russia. We also continue to donate \$25 a month to the China Food Pantry.



**Feeding the Community**

Susie's goodies still provide us with lots of tasty bites every week & in turn, she donates 25% of her proceeds to the PDF (Pastor's Discretionary Fund). - *Kathy Plaisted, Deacon*

**Finance & Stewardship:**

Since our spring newsletter, our three Delaware Life Insurance annuity accounts have expired; the cash-out checks totaling \$93,275.21 were deposited into the Meader Fund (\$36,280.63) & Memorial Fund (\$28,497.29 x 2 = \$56,994.58) until the Council has looked into current interest rates & options for future investment(s).



At the August 21 Council meeting, Janet reported a deficit of **-\$10,083.46**, but it didn't include the \$1,675 revenue from the Rummage Sale or ~\$800 profit from the Chicken BBQ. We've spent 53% of our budget, 58% of salaries, while only 41% of expected revenue has come in.

Prior to our August 28 Sunday service, the Council requested & received membership approval for an additional \$3,000 to be transferred from the Memorial Fund to the checking account.

**Account balances as of August 31:**

Checking.....	\$4,765.02
Faith Ames Fund.....	\$2,075.96
Memorial Fund.....	\$81,772.84
Meader Fund.....	\$33,281.28
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$121,895.10</b>

The deficit noted above was expected, but is still disheartening. The Council needs your thoughts & suggestions for ways in which to reduce expenses, raise revenue & attract new members. It will be working on a draft budget for 2023 at its Sept/Oct meetings, so please don't hesitate to bring your ideas to a Council member or attend a meeting! -



**A LOOK at the BUDGET**

*Respectfully, Jayne Winters, Council Secretary & Darlene Zimmerman, Treasurer*

### **Building & Grounds:**

Painting on ramps & porches is progressing nicely. After the ramp is painted, it will have a no-slip layer added to be ready for winter. Some cleanup of the flowerbeds in front of the church will be done to improve the aesthetics of the beds & keep the ramp clean.

The Meader Fund donation for this year will be used to upgrade the railings at the entry of the church. The old ones, while still safe, do not inspire the confidence they should. Bob Webber has the expertise & tools to make sure the new railings are installed in a way that will be safe & comfortable for those entering the church. Thanks, Bob!

The bushes under the sanctuary window are looking leggy & overgrown. They will be cut back severely to force regrowth that will let them fill out; the new growth will add green & restore the plants.



Dry conditions have slowed the ground cover growth in front of Memorial Hall, but some mulch will keep the crabgrass at bay while the ground cover spreads.

A torch will be used to remove green from gaps in the paving of the parking lot. When those gaps are clear, the paving will be sealed. This will close the parking lot to traffic at times during the week.



Since our crew is small, this work will be done in stages, so the closing will be in parts over several weeks this fall.

As always, room21@outlook.com is the best way to send me concerns, suggestions & information about the building. Please feel free to reach out with any you have. - *Thanks, Ron Maxwell, Deacon Building & Grounds*

### **Christian Education:**

Great news! Our wonderful Sunday School teacher, Lydia Biswell, will be serving God's people again this year, starting September 11th. Please let Pastor Paul, a Council member or Lydia know if you have a child or children who would like to join her! Pastor Paul will begin Adult Bible Study that Sunday as well, beginning at 9AM. Come one, come all! - *Blessings, Emily Schroeder, Education Chair/Elder*



### **Communications & Outreach:**

Hello everyone! I will be filling this position for Lindsey Harwath, but I need a helper! I am a snowbird so need someone to share this Committee/Board position with me from Dec - April. If interested, please talk to me or call 207-399-6359.

We had a very successful Rummage Sale, Cookie Walk & Chicken Barbecue on August 13. Thank you to everyone who supported this event by baking, selling, cooking, buying, serving, & keeping things straight! The Rummage & Cookie Sales brought in about \$1500; the Chicken BBQ netted about \$700-800 after expenses. Huge success!

We are planning a Craft Fair for October 29. The church will have one table with items & craft supplies for sale. If you or anyone you know would like to rent a table for \$20, let me know. Their proceeds are theirs - they just have to pay for the table rental. We probably will have a pie or bake sale as well.



Trying to get the word out about our church & events can be expensive. I will be running ads on Channel 7, utilizing the free spot in the Town Line, KJ & Sentinel, as well as on our website.

Thank you to Russell Poulin, who is our webmaster & Facebook page contact - you are awesome! Also thank you to Glenna, who keeps the Flock Lists current & provides bulletin information such as birthdays & anniversaries. You both do so much more, but I wanted to shout out a big THANK YOU! Thank you, Jayne Winters, for doing this newsletter! - *In Christ's Love & Service, Diane Rawson, Elder*



**Worship Committee:**

The biggest news in Worship is that we have lost our wonderful Music Director, Ian Maxwell. He has decided to get on with his life & move to Pennsylvania to be with friends & more career opportunities. We will miss him terribly, but we wish him the best on his journey. With his talent & attitude, he will, no doubt, make his next employer very happy!



Consequently, we are in need of a piano player to replace Ian as soon as possible. Please keep your eyes & ears open for another musician who might be interested.

We had a wonderful service to honor Chris Faris, who passed away in July. It was very moving to sing/hear so many of his musical compositions. His daughter Elise & her two sons attended & were very

pleased, as I think Chris would have been, although he would have cringed at all the recognition of his talents. Kelly Clark gave a lovely tribute touching on Chris's intellectual, contemplative, & caring qualities. Many others spoke about their close relationship with Chris. He touched many lives in big ways & was the humblest person I have ever known. We were truly blessed to have had him as a part of our church family.



In financial news, we are on target with our budgeted income for bulletins. Thank you very much for your contributions! If we take in \$20 each month for the rest of the year, we will meet our goal. We have spent \$300 of our budgeted \$370 for the year. - *Respectfully submitted, Janet Preston, Worship Chair*

\*PLEASE BE AWARE that a scam message pretending to be from Pastor Paul is being sent from "onlinechurch04358@gmail.com" - it is NOT from Paul! Please do NOT open it or any links it may contain. Just delete it & let him and/or someone on the Council know if you've received any strange or suspicious e-mails.\*



[WWW.GUIDEPOSTS.ORG/NEWSLETTER](http://WWW.GUIDEPOSTS.ORG/NEWSLETTER) FOR WEEKLY INSPIRATIONAL, TRUE STORIES OF HOPE & FAITH

[WWW.GUIDEPOSTS.ORG/10-WORD-PRAYER](http://WWW.GUIDEPOSTS.ORG/10-WORD-PRAYER) FOR SIMPLE, 10-WORD PRAYERS



**Congratulations** to Jack & Marge Kurtzman, who welcomed another granddaughter, Katherine Rose, on April 21, 2022. She is the 3<sup>rd</sup> daughter of Jake & Caolite Kurtzman.

Howard Ehrlich has moved to FL to be near family. His new address is: 1101 66<sup>th</sup> Street N, St. Petersburg, FL 33710

Pat Wetmore has moved to NY to be near her daughter. Her new address is: c/o Jill Yencer, 6974 Big Tree Road, Livonia, NY 14487



**Did you know...**

that back in 1831 a 22yr old divinity student, Samuel Francis Smith, was looking at some German hymns when he was inspired to write one of his own ("America"), from which the verse below is taken? Three years later, Smith became an ordained Baptist minister & had a long career in his native New England, including as a professor at Waterville College, now known as Colby!

*Our Father's God to Thee,  
Author of liberty,  
To Thee we sing;  
Long may our land be bright  
With freedom's holy light;  
Protect us by Thy might,  
Great God, our King!*

- Samuel Francis Smith

**Positive Quotes**



*"I have never known the Spirit of God to work where the Lord's people were divided."* - **D. L. Moody, American Evangelist**

*"When God threw me, a pebble, into this wondrous lake, I disturbed its surface with countless circles. But when I reached the depths I became very still".* - **Kahlil Gibran, Poet**

*"We're not all meant to look & act & think exactly the same. God demonstrates His glory through diversity & the different gifts & personalities of His followers."* - **Mandisa, Gospel Singer**

*"Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud."* - **Maya Angelou**

*"For the Christian, heaven is where Jesus is. We do not need to speculate on what heaven will be like. It is enough to know that we will be forever with Him."* - **William Marclay, Theologian**



*Wherever you go, God is sending you.  
Wherever you are, God has a purpose for you being there.*

*The God of grace who lives in you and me wants to do something through us.  
God in God's love and grace.*

- A Sunday Benediction  
(submitted by Marge Kurtzman)



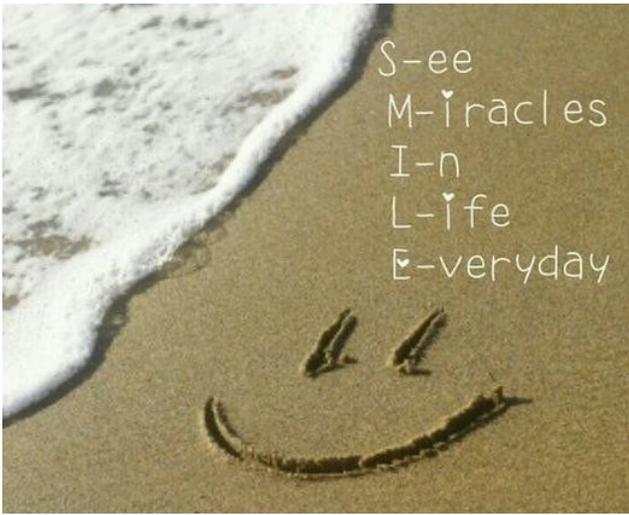
**SYMPATHY & CONTINUED PRAYERS** for the families & friends of those who have passed into God's hands:

Leonard Wetmore (4/11/22)  
Chris Faris (7/12/22)

**NOTE:** Living Memorial Funds have been started for Pastor Jim & Chris Faris. Those wishing to donate to either or both funds can issue their check to South China Community Church & comment in the memo section that it is for the Memorial Fund for Pastor Jim or Chris Faris. Contributions not only honor individuals, but help our Memorial Fund gather a few more much needed dollars.



- ✝ RESUMING SEPT 11: ADULT BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL, 9AM
- ✝ SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICE, 10AM
- ✝ COMMUNION: SEPT 4 - OCT 2 - NOV 6
- ✝ COUNCIL MEETINGS, 2<sup>ND</sup> SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 6PM: SEPT 11 - OCT 9 - NOV 13
- ✝ PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND (PDF) DONATION SUNDAY: OCT 30
- ✝ RECOVERY GROUP MEETINGS: TBA
- ✝ TURKEY PIE SUPPER: TBA
- ✝ CRAFT FAIR: SAT, OCT 29, 9AM-2PM
- ✝ DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME: ENDS SUNDAY, NOV 6



**From Facebook:**

I believe churches are meant for praising God. But so are 2AM car rides, showers, coffee shops, the gym, conversations with friends, strangers, etc. Don't let a building confine your faith because we will never change the world by just going to church. We need to **BE** the church.

**Q:** What kind of clock is the hardest to change for Daylight Savings Time?

**A:** A sundial.

**Q:** What is the best pet for Daylight Savings Time?

**A:** A watch dog.

**Q:** Why couldn't the clock set itself back for Daylight Savings Time?

**A:** It needed a hand.

**Q:** When did the duck wake up the morning after clocks were turned back?

**A:** At the quack of dawn.



*Just wondering...*

Which letter is silent in the word "Scent," the S or the C?

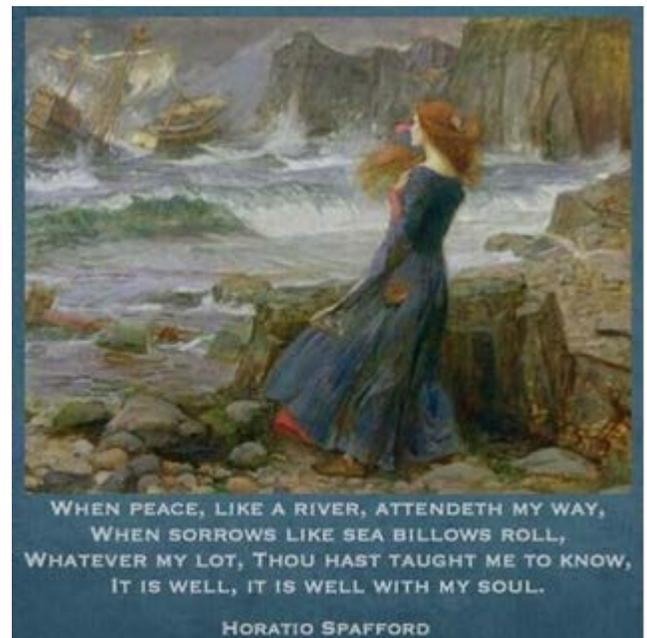
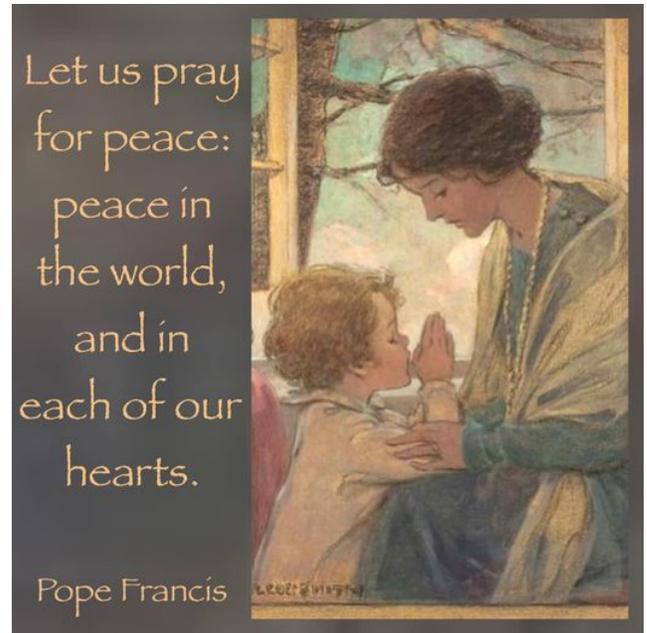
Why is the letter W, in English, called double U? Shouldn't it be called double V?

The word "swims" upside-down is still "swims".

If money doesn't grow on trees, why do banks have branches?

Why are goods sent by ship called CARGO & those sent by truck called SHIPMENT?

Why do we put cups in the dishwasher & dishes in the cupboard?



People  
Expressing  
A  
Christ  
Everlasting

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*“I am the vine, you are the  
branches. He who abides in Me  
and I in him bears much fruit;  
for without Me you can do  
nothing.” - John 15:5*

