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# SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH

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Rev. Paul Harwath, Pastor

Spring 2023

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## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

The Lord has risen! Easter is upon us! Lent is a quiet time of contemplation. Easter is a time to get fired up. To grasp what being a Christian really means. When you can truly grasp the significance of what Jesus has done for us, it will change how you see the world & how you live in it.



We need to sidestep the traps that this world constantly places in front of us. Politics is a big distraction, earthly desires, money, grudges we hold, the quest for the bigger & better. These things are all tools of the devil. These things have no value in heaven & consequently, no real value to us on earth other than to entrap us.

Always remember that God's Will will be done, with or without us. No person can change the future unless God wants it changed. No person should fear the future. Have faith that God is in control, He can & will fix all things.

Relax, look around & see the people God has placed before you. These are the people you are given to love. Even the creepy guy around the corner. Be aware that God wants us to be His loving children & God loves nothing more than to watch His children reach out to love & help one another. - *My love & The Love of God be with you all, Pastor Paul*



## CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

### President's Report:

#### **Greetings & Happy Spring!**

I must begin by thanking you for your support & attendance, whether in-person or remotely. You keep us going! And especially to Pastor Paul, who remains steadfast, faithful & joy-filled in his service to God & this church. We are blessed, to be sure!

As you know, we still need a Music Director. Josh Kaplan has been a great addition, but he has to move on with his young life & won't be returning in the Fall. So, please spread the word & let us know if you know of anyone who might be interested in leading us in song.



With the pandemic calming down, we of the Council thought it would be nice to have monthly fellowship after church services, much as we used to. You'll be reminded when the time gets close & will be invited to bring some type of snack. No need to be fancy; coffee & other beverages will be provided.

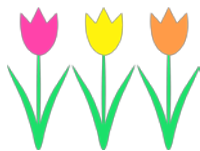
Now we're looking forward to our first turkey pie supper of the year on April 29<sup>th</sup>, from 5-6:30PM, in our usual sit-down or take-out style. Help & supplies are always welcome! You'll see a sign-up sheet soon!

We also always welcome new ideas for fundraisers. Feel free to pass your suggestions on to Pastor Paul or a Council

member. You can attend a Council meeting in person as well, with any questions or concerns.

My thanks to the Council: Ron M., Janet, Kathy, Joan, Diane, Debbie S.; our great secretary, Jayne, & to Darlene for her finance expertise. Special thanks to Glenna for her sharp fact-checking & institutional memory. I would be lost without all of you!

I hope you have a wonderful Easter season & continued blessings throughout the year! - *In His Service, Emily Schroeder, Council President*



### **Missions & Benevolence:**

We are officially in spring now, so I'm sure it won't be long until the snow will be gone & everything will be in blossom. I just love seeing the rebirth of things after the cold winter months.

Due to the extra generosity of our members, we continue to donate PDF money to individuals who are in need. Members continue to bring in donations for the China Food Pantry, which are very much needed. A big thank you to everyone! - *Kathy Plaisted, Deacon*



### **Finance & Stewardship:**

After the first three months of 2023, I have to say a big thank you again! Our average contributions from pledges & loose offerings are above the target to meet the budget. Our income so far from

pledges is \$3,220 & from loose offerings is \$1,336.50. Each of these is above where it should be a quarter of the way through the year. Thank you!

Overall, we have brought in \$16,970, which is 25% of our budgeted revenue for the year. Expenses currently total about \$16,400, which is about 21% of the budget, so we are right on target for both expenses & revenue. We got a reprieve on our propane when CB Haskell called to say we have a large credit in our account & that we are all set until the new prices come out in June. That was wonderful news!

We have also collected over \$1,000, or about 51%, of our budgeted PDF money, thanks to Susie's treats & your generosity.

### **Current Account Balances:**

Checking Account:	\$4,477.96
Faith Ames:	\$1,948.93
Memorial Fund:	\$34,142.88
Meader Fund:	\$2,232.16
CD:	\$80,631.94

- *With appreciation, Janet Preston, Finance Chair*

### **Building & Grounds:**

I'm continuing to look for "a deal" for vinyl click-in, waterproof flooring in a color that will complement our blue chairs in Memorial Hall, but contrast with the remaining section of wood floor.

The major spring project will be to clean up the collection of "stuff" that has overtaken the rooms downstairs. A variety of items will be organized for inclusion in our summer Rummage Sale & any remaining furniture may be sold on-line.



Summer projects include repainting the stairs, repairing/replacing the small porch roof, & upgrading the parking lot lights since the solars aren't providing consistent lighting.

Don't hesitate to let me know if you have any building or property concerns. The best way to reach me is by email ([Room21@outlook.com](mailto:Room21@outlook.com)). - *Thanks, Ron Maxwell, Deacon Building & Grounds*

### **Christian Education:**

We remain "small but mighty", especially in this department! I'd hate to think where we'd be without Lydia Biswell's leadership as a teacher. Sister-in-law Nancy Rogers is also available for the younger folks, whenever we have them. The last day for Sunday School is May 7<sup>th</sup> & we'll resume in the Fall.

Adult Bible Study continues with Pastor Paul, starting at 9AM before service. We're working on the Book of Matthew, in the Serendipity Bible. We enjoy answering the study questions which help us understand the passages & how they relate to our own lives. Thanks, Paul!

"Rejoice in the Lord and be glad..." Psalm 32, VS. 11 - *Blessings, Emily Schroeder, Elder*



### **Communications & Outreach:**

Happy Spring to all! As you know, in November I started to co-chair with Diane Rawson until her return next month. This has been a fairly busy time since then, starting with the craft fair in October, which went very well, earning \$700 plus \$50 from ticket sales for the afghan. The vendors were very pleased & want to come back next year.

In November, the take-out soup lunch fundraiser was successful, with three different soups to choose from: chicken noodle, squash & fish chowder.

Blankets left from the summer Rummage Sale were donated to the China Food Pantry, as well as prayer shawls. Ann happily accepted these & they were added to the food baskets.

Our "Cupid's Creations" fundraiser to celebrate Valentine's Day, was held February 11<sup>th</sup>. There was a lot of support in donating cookies, cakes, candy & cupcakes; sales were disappointing, although sweets were sold on Sunday & when the Library held its meeting in Memorial Hall the next day. The "Choose Your Chili" fundraiser on February 25<sup>th</sup> was a hit with three choices: vegetarian, white chicken & regular not-so-spicy chili.



Our next fundraiser will be a turkey pie supper on April 29<sup>th</sup> Please come out & support this. Volunteers are always needed to help with these events, so please consider serving our church in any way you can. Making prayer shawls is another way you can reach out to those in need of comfort. Whether it be because of illness or loneliness, or just because all God's children need each other & we care. Please give me a call at 445-2029 if you're interested in learning about the prayer shawls.

Diane has asked for volunteers to help with our table at the China Community Days this summer. The Lord loves a cheerful giver! - *Respectfully submitted, Joan Ferrone, Elder*



**Worship Committee:**

I am in awe of the people who have shared their talents in the choir, playing the piano & singing from the pews. What an amazing group of people!

We are looking for someone to play the piano when Josh moves on with his academic life. If you know of someone, please let me know. The position entails playing for the choir at Wednesday night rehearsals & again on Sunday mornings. We offer \$150 a week, or \$75 for one day. It would be great if we had a list of people who could play the piano as backup if needed. So, my ask is that if you know of someone who would be interested in playing for the church, please have them call me at 207-462-2175.

The Council has approved having an auction table for the dine-in suppers. The first turkey pie supper is scheduled for April 29th. If anyone wants to donate an item for the auction table, please do. It can be a craft item or something cooked, e.g., pies, cookies, candy, etc. - *Yours in Christ, Debbie Stowe, Worship Chair*

**PLEASE NOTE:** Any **SCCC** or individual **Needham** sales need to be recorded on the calendar in the kitchen - thank you!



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

- Homer Downs (1/16/23, Helen Emery's brother)
- Madeline Dowe (1/22/23)
- Laura [Wade] Kee (2/20/23)
- Steve Blackwell (3/6/23)
- Fred Glidden (3/8/23)
- Christa Pauley (3/23/23)

**Positive Quotes**



*“Don’t put a period where God put a comma. Keep writing your story.”* - **Jon Gordon, Author & Motivational Speaker**

*“If it’s big enough to worry about, it’s big enough to pray about.”* - **Craig Groeschel, Pastor & Author**

*“My view is simple: I believe that God is love. Period. End of story. For love runs through everyone and everything.”* - **Willie Nelson, Country Music Star**

*“The most important part of religion isn’t in any church. It’s down in your own heart...in the way you act from day to day, in the way you treat other people.”* – **Maud Hart Lovelace, American Writer**



**\*New Column!! Please email or speak to me or a Council member with any tidbits you have for...**

**MEMBER NEWS:**

♥ **Gillian Welch & Galen Lichterfeld** (Certified Arborist) of SymmeTree Tree & Garden Services in Vassalboro are offering discounts to SCCC members. Check out their Facebook page & please call (207) 458-7283 for further information about pruning, chipping or tree removal needs.



♥ **Mbingo Mountain Coffee**, a new Waterville coffee roasting business founded by **Churchill Elangwe-Preston**, officially celebrated its opening on January 19 at Waterville's Holy Cannoli, a café on Main Street which is serving & selling the African-grown coffee.

Churchill grew up in Cameroon, where his family owns coffee & cocoa farms. He came to Maine 20 years ago to further his education & after earning an electrical engineering degree, served as a Quality Assurance Manager for a local company.

MMC's slogan, "Uplift Your Mood, Uplift Lives," reflects Churchill's dream of creating a business that would support small coffee farmers in Africa as well as provide fresh, high quality coffee to consumers.



Mbingo Mountain Coffee beans are imported from Ethiopia, Rwanda, & Uganda, with each variety having hints of flavors unique to its growing region. Check out the website at [mbingomountaincoffee.com](http://mbingomountaincoffee.com) to read

about your options or call (207) 619-2492 for more info.

♥ In addition to the launching of his new coffee business, **Churchill** became a US citizen at a March 3 ceremony held at Bangor's courthouse. Several friends & church members attended the event, which was covered by several local news outlets. Congratulations!

♥ **Marge Kurtzman** recently shared this benediction from their church in TN:

May the love of God which is broader than the measure of our minds; the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ which is sufficient for all our needs; and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit Who shall lead us into all truth be with us all this day (night).



† **ADULT BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL, SUNDAY MORNINGS, 9AM**

† **SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICE, 10AM**

† **COMMUNION: MAY 7 - JUNE 4 - JULY 2 - AUGUST 6**

† **COUNCIL MEETINGS, TBA**

† **PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND (PDF) DONATION SUNDAY: APRIL 30 - JULY 30**

† **APRIL 6 - MAUNDY THURSDAY, 6PM**

† **APRIL 7 - GOOD FRIDAY, 6PM**

† **APRIL 9 - EASTER, 10AM**

† **APRIL 29 - TURKEY PIE SUPPER, 5-6:30PM**

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*“Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.”*

*- Matthew 28:5-6*

