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# SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH



Rev. Paul Harwath, Pastor

Late Summer/Fall 2023

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## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

Living a life of following our Lord's teachings can be difficult at times, but not nearly as difficult as living a life of being self-centered & caring only about one's own desires.

I watch people live their lives always trying to elevate themselves & get more wealth, not caring one bit about the hurt they cause others. They easily tire of what they have because it will never be enough. How can you fill a void in a person's life as large as the God of all there is? It cannot happen.

We all need God in our lives. Without Jesus Christ in our lives, we are an empty vessel or a vessel with a hole in its bottom. What could ever replace the Creator of all things & the Giver of all things?

Many of us live our lives without cares for God or our neighbors. I look at these people who think they have everything, but in truth they have nothing. It makes me sad, but my sadness is nothing compared to that of our Lord & Savior, who gave all that He had, even His life, so that we could inherit what is worth more than all the treasures in the world. Always remember that if you have the Love of God in your life, you are among the wealthiest in God's Kingdom! - *My love & The Love of God be with you all, Pastor Paul*

**GOD**  **LOVES YOU.**

## CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

### President's Report:

Happy End-of-Summer to you all! I am eternally grateful for your support of this church & for the loving friendships we share as Christians. It's that bond & faith that's kept us moving forward, especially after our dear Glenna was granted her wings. In addition to the question we should always ask, "What would Jesus do?", I'm constantly wondering, "What would Glenna do?" She was such a blessing to all of us!



We continue with our outreach & fundraising events. The Council decided to try something new: a "Blessed Brunch" on July 29. We had too much food & not a lot of customers, but it was well received. We'll be trying it again every month this fall, so please come if you can & bring friends!

We've had several meals since our April 29<sup>th</sup> turkey pie supper. On May 20, we tried a spaghetti feed (delicious!). We did quite well with our Annual Rummage Sale & Chicken BBQ on August 12, with the sale continuing to the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup>. Our next turkey pie supper is scheduled for September 30. Brunch dates follow on October 14 & November 11 (half price for veterans!). Our Annual Craft Fair & Bake Sale is on the calendar for October 28, followed by a Soup Sale right after Thanksgiving, on November 25<sup>th</sup>.

We always love to meet folks who join us for spiritual food. If you get the chance, invite your friends, neighbors, relatives & acquaintances to our events & services.

Thank you, also, for keeping up with your pledges & donations. Without this regular income, we would not be able to keep our doors open & maintain our building.

In closing, I'm honored to be working with our Council, a group of caring & talented individuals. Pastor Paul as our leader is a gift from God. - *In His Service, Emily Schroeder, Council President*



### Missions & Benevolence:

Another summer coming to an end, but it has been extra enjoyable for me since I retired this past year. Now I have more time to spend on my flower gardens, canning all the veggies we have grown & helping out with church activities.

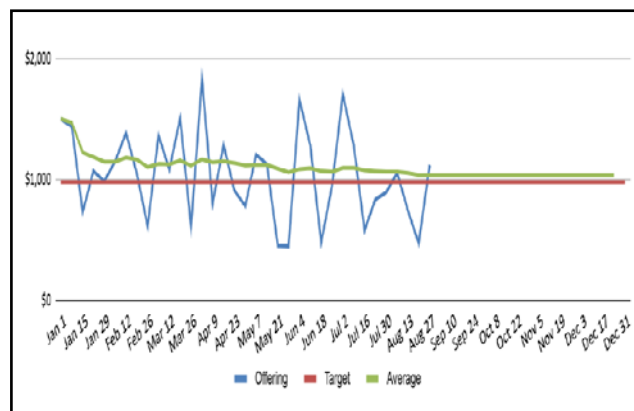
We have increased our donation to the China Food Pantry from \$25 to \$50 each month. A big thank-you to all the people who have left food donations. The pantry is always very grateful for whatever we are able to drop off.



Christmas will be here before we know it & hopefully, we will be able to contribute to a couple of needy families again this year. I will try to get the gift information before Thanksgiving so people can get some good deals on Black Friday. - *Kathy Plaisted, Deacon*

### Finance & Stewardship:

We are about two-thirds of the way through the year & have spent ~60% of our budget & brought in ~70% of our budgeted income. I like that! Our offerings income continues to exceed expectations, maintaining a positive difference between our weekly offerings average, which was \$1,039 as of August 27<sup>th</sup> & our weekly target of \$975. Thank you very much for your generosity & continued financial support.



We continue to brainstorm about new fundraisers to try. We have had some success with our *Soup for the Soul* & our *Blessed Brunch*. We hosted another brunch on September 9 & will be having a soup sale in November. We always can use more help with our fundraisers, either by contributing ingredients or baked goods or by helping to cook/serve/organize. It's a lot of fun to participate! Thanks to all who have done so. We appreciate your time & contributions.

Total Expenses as of 8/31: \$46,518.83  
 Total Income as of 8/31: \$46,876.64

### Current Account Balances:

Checking:	\$5,083.41
Faith Ames Fund:	\$1,949.33
Memorial Fund:	\$34,555.06
Meader Fund:	\$2,232.25
CD:	\$81,885.85

Our CD investment has proven to be a good decision, with earnings of almost \$2,000 since it was opened in February. – *With appreciation, Janet Preston, Finance Chair*

**Building & Grounds:**

A couple of projects have been successfully completed: the carpet in Memorial Hall was cleaned in July (we rented the equipment & saved considerable expense by doing the work ourselves) & a lot of the "stuff" stored haphazardly downstairs was tossed, sold at our Rummage Sale, or donated to other local groups. There still is some reorganizing to do, which will be done this fall/winter.



In addition, the storage room off the kitchen will be better organized with additional shelving & moving some items to kitchen cupboards. There are still some personal items missing & we're hoping they'll be discovered as we tackle this project.

Sealing the parking lot is a priority this fall, again to be done by our volunteer crew to save money. Re-paving is quite expensive & too costly for us right now. I also plan to mount a super outside light on a block so that it will cover more of the parking lot.

If you have any concerns or questions, the best way to reach me is by e-mail ([Room21@outlook.com](mailto:Room21@outlook.com)). - *Thanks, Ron Maxwell, Deacon Building & Grounds*



**Christian Education:**

Adult classes & Sunday School resumed on September 10<sup>th</sup> & meet weekly at 9AM. Adults will continue their study of Matthew with Pastor Paul. Lydia Biswell & Nancy Rogers will be available for younger students. If you, or anyone you know, would like to join either group, please contact me or Pastor Paul. We'd love to have more seats filled! Thanks! - *Blessings, Emily Schroeder, Elder*



**Communications & Outreach:**

It seems like summer just started & it will soon be over. Make the most of each day you are given!

It's been a busy summer with our first Blessed Brunch fundraiser, a Turkey Pie Supper & the always fun Rummage Sale, Cookie Walk & Chicken BBQ. Thank you to all who helped, contributed, cooked, cleaned, etc. Our goal is to some day use these funds to support more missions & outreach & less to help balance the general budget. But, as you know, at this point we need fundraisers to maintain the budget.

We set up a booth at China Community Days on August 5 to attract & inform people about our church. There were brochures (thanks, Jayne Winters), trinkets & information on Compassion International, which many of our members support.

This fall looks to be as busy as the summer. A craft fair is being planned for October, so if you know any crafters who

might want to rent a table, have them call me at 207-399-6359. Also planned are some more Blessed Brunches, Soup Sale & a Turkey Pie Supper, with auction items available.

It is refreshing to see new people attending our church. Spread the word: with even more people who love the Lord, great things can be accomplished! We always welcome any former attendees who feel they would like to come back, especially now that Covid-19 is better controlled. And of course, children are especially welcome!

I want to thank Joan Ferrone for taking over for me while I was in Florida. Also, a thank-you to Russell Poulin for maintaining our church website at southchinacommunitychurch.org & Jayne Winters for putting together the quarterly newsletters & helping with posters for advertising. - *In Christ's love & service, Diane Webber-Rawson, Elder*



**Worship Committee:**

Hi Everyone, I hope that you've all enjoyed the summer, even with all the rain!

I have enjoyed the music we've had since June. CD's are good, but there is just an extra something having someone play. Mary Matteson has played for us on a month-by-month basis, but has recently indicated that she is seriously considering signing a contract with us (praying that

she will, as she is also a good fit for our choir).

Speaking of the choir, our members are wonderful & it always seems like they have a good time. If anyone is interested & willing to join, there are seats just waiting for you! They usually meet for rehearsal on Wednesday evenings & 9AM on Sunday. They are indeed a blessing to SCCC. That's something I appreciate about our little church - it seems like a family & we all work together to serve God. - *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.

- Glenna Jordan (4/30/23)
- Victor Maxwell (5/8/23, Ron's father)
- Hannah Belole Elangwe (5/20/23, Churchill's mother)
- Lee Jones Hargadon (6/3/23, daughter of Wilmot Rufus Jones, Jr.)
- Barbara Scanlon (6/7/23, Summer Attendee)
- George Scanlon (8/15/23, Summer Attendee)

## Positive Quotes



*“The brook would lose its song if God removed the rocks.”* – **Barbara Johnson, Guideposts Magazine**

*“When, God, when?’ is a big question that we all want answered, but God rarely answers it. He wants us to trust Him & to do that we must live with unanswered questions.”* – **Joyce Meyer, Author**

*“God’s Word is a lamp, but not a flood lamp. More like a flashlight... God’s Word illuminates one step at a time because that’s all we really need to see & know.”* – **Pastor Tracy Wilde-Pace**

*“What you do with yourself between the last time you heard from God & the next time you hear from God is the ongoing challenge of a life of faith.”* – **Cece Williams, Gospel Singer**

## **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 & call (207) 458-7283 for further info about pruning, chipping or tree removal.
- ♥ For info about Mbingo Mountain Coffee, the Waterville coffee roasting business founded by **Churchill Elangwe-Preston**, call (207) 619-2492 or go to [mbingomountaincoffee.com](http://mbingomountaincoffee.com).

- ♥ Congratulations to first-time grandparents **David & Janet Preston**, whose son **Richard & wife Moriah Preston** welcomed son Elliot on June 21, 2023.



- † ADULT BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL, SUNDAYS AT 9AM
- † SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICE, 10AM
- † COMMUNION: OCT 1 - NOV 5 - DEC 3
- † COUNCIL MEETINGS, TBA
- † PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND (PDF) DONATION SUNDAY: OCT 29 - DEC 31
- † TURKEY PIE SUPPER, 5-6:30PM, SEPT 30
- † BLESSED BRUNCH, 9-11AM OCT 14 - NOV 11
- † CRAFT FAIR/BAKE SALE, 9AM-2PM OCT 28
- † SOUP FUNDRAISER, NOV 25 (TIME TBD)



**The woodpecker might have to go.**

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*“No one can serve two masters.  
Either you will hate the one and love  
the other, or you will be devoted to  
the one and despise the other. You  
cannot serve both God and money.”  
- Luke 16:13*

