
SOUTH CHINA COMMUNITY CHURCH



Rev. Paul Harwath, Pastor

Summer 2025

PASTOR'S MESSAGE

What is the most important issue facing our world today? The opinions are many. The concerns vary. The list is endless & changes with each & every person on the planet.

The first & foremost concern should be the same for all people! If you knew you had very little time left in this world & would soon be standing before God, how would your list of important issues change? If I



ask someone this question, they often say, "Well, that changes everything." I always am amazed & fail to understand why this changes anything!

The problems this world has are endless; they will always be here in this world, but you will not. This world will end. Will you? If we are only on this planet for a short time, then why are people not scrambling to prepare for our permanent home? Why is not our relationship with our God first on our list? God is the source of all things, the beginning & the end of all things. Nothing matters more for all things & all people!

I will make out a list of issues that all people everywhere should work on every day of their lives: 1) God is one God. 2) Love God with all your might, all your soul, & all your strength. 3) You shall love all people as yourself. These things are the most important issues for today, tomorrow & for all time! - *My love & God's love be with you all, Pastor Paul*

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

President's Report:

Angels-Who Are They?

Angels have been around forever, acting as messengers for God. In Genesis 16, an angel tells Hagar to return to Sarai & submit to her, adding that she (Hagar) will bear a son for Abram. Judges 6 describes the plight of Gideon, who desperately wanted to save the Israelites from the Midianites. God sent a prophet, also described as "the angel of the Lord" & "the angel of God." Gideon addressed him as Lord & asked for signs of his authority. Of course, God saved the Israelites. In 1 Kings, an angel touched Elijah & convinced him to eat & drink before continuing on his journey to Horeb. God sent an angel to destroy Jerusalem (1 Chronicles, Ch. 21), but had mercy & ordered the angel to stop.

The angel Gabriel interpreted Daniel's visions; he (the angel) was "one who looked like a man" (Daniel 8:15). A king was coming to destroy, but that king would ultimately be destroyed. The same angel would go on to announce the births of John & Jesus.

Angels appeared in physical form, offering advice, wisdom, news & help, directed by God. In my Bible



they are defined as "an order of heavenly, supernatural beings created by God for his purposes" (p. 1992, Women of Faith Study Bible-NIV, Zondervan, 2001). Once

Jesus went home to Heaven, they took their place as subject to Him.

I would like to add a modern spin to this definition. Aren't there people in your circles who have saved you in one way or another? They care about you, give some advice, tell you something you need to know. Some may have even shared and/or interpreted the Word of God. These people may not be supernatural, but they certainly are Spirit-filled. They've earned the title "angel on earth." If it were not for them, our lives would not be the same; we might not even be alive.

Hebrews 1:14 states: "Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to save those who will inherit salvation?"

That said, I consider all of you my angels & I am truly blessed. Thank you for being in my life, for caring for this church, each other, & those in our community. May you know many angels as well! - *Emily Schroeder, Council President*



Missions & Benevolence:

I hope everyone has been enjoying the lovely weather we've been having this summer. Some days have been a little too hot to do much outside, but I am not complaining!

There haven't been many requests for help in the last few months, but we need to think ahead to the winter months when there is always a greater need. Between the monthly breakfasts that have been

well attended & the weekly donations for Susie's goodies, we are doing pretty well.

It won't be much longer & we will need to start thinking of the Christmas families. Please don't hesitate to let one of us know if you are aware of someone in need. It is our mission to help as many as possible.



Thanks again to anyone who has left donations for the China Food Pantry! – *Kathy Plaisted, Deacon*

Finance & Stewardship:

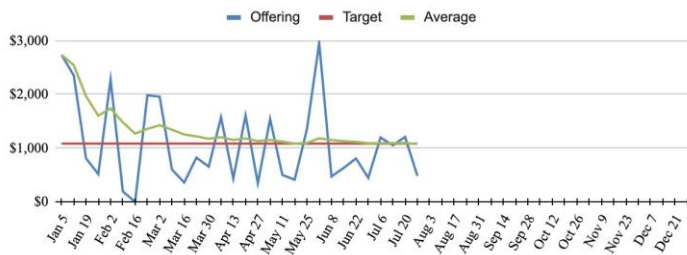
Greetings! I hope you all are having a nice summer filled with family visits, good food & many moments for your favorite pastimes. I have missed you, as I have been absent most of the summer, but I am still on top of the church finances.

As of July 31, SCCC expenses are at \$52,598.67, or 62% of our budget, which is a bit high, given that we are 58% of the way through the year. However, our revenue is also high at \$51,669.02, or 61%, so we are doing well, with expenses exceeding revenue by only \$929.65. Good job, everyone!

The area in which our expenses have exceeded budgeted amounts the most is Property Maintenance. Ron Maxwell has spent numerous hours getting our building up to par so we can find another company to insure our property. Rates have increased significantly & we are hoping to reduce that cost. Thank you, Ron, for all the time & effort you have put into repairs & improvements!

Weekly offerings average slightly over \$1000, which just meets our weekly

target. Thank you very much for your continued support.



Fundraising efforts have paid off well, with income from our breakfasts & Chicken BBQ exceeding expectations. On the other hand, we now have breakfast expenses since we are buying some food supplies instead of relying on the Kitchen Crew to pay out of their own pockets; but our revenue easily covers it.

We have made over \$4,000 in interest on our CD investments so far this year. Our Meader/Memorial CD matured in July & we reinvested the funds in two 11-month CDs at 4%. Separating the Meader & Memorial money will make it a lot easier to keep track of what's what. - *Gratefully, Janet Preston, Finance Chair*



Building & Grounds:

We remain insured through Church Mutual as criteria for the anticipated coverage with State Farm changed June 1st. Although frustrated & disappointed with what transpired, the building repairs needed to be done & will help us acquire a new carrier. Efforts to secure a new & less expensive insurance policy are ongoing.

Bob Webber has installed new bathroom windows & two of four others in Memorial Hall. Funds for the purchase of an air conditioner for the sanctuary (to help with heat & humidity) did not have to come from the Meader Fund as the cost was covered by an anonymous donor; a second AC will be bought for Memorial Hall later.

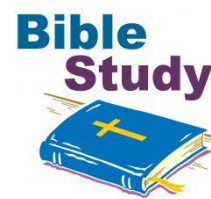
Most of what remains for maintenance is cosmetic & will include outside yard work. If you have any suggestions or questions, please let me know by emailing me at room21@outlook.com. - *Regards, Ron Maxwell, Chair, Building & Grounds*



Christian Education:

We adults are working through the Book of Acts, thanks to Pastor Paul. It is thought-provoking, to be sure. We welcome anyone to join us as they can, 9AM on Sunday mornings.

We also have one young man who is learning about God with the help of Lydia & Nancy, our "dynamic duo" in Sunday School. My thanks to them; we are indeed blessed to have them in our church family! - *Thank you all for your continuing support, Emily Schroeder, Elder*



Communications & Outreach:

Where has the summer gone? It's flying, flying away on me. For China Community Days, I set up a booth for our church & handed out popcorn, trinkets & info. Wanted to be sure we were seen as a cog in the community!

We had a super successful Rummage Sale, Cookie Walk & Chicken BBQ this year! Thanks to all the help, we brought in over a total of \$2,300 to help with our annual church budget. The monthly Blessed Breakfasts continue to be a great outreach & more people are coming to them.



The Elder/Deacon of the month provides a cake at the end of the month so we can celebrate the birthdays & anniversaries of that month. Thank you, Debbie Stowe, for coordinating the birthday cards. If you are not on our lists in the weekly bulletin, please let Aurie Maxwell know & she will add you! We truly enjoy being a caring church family.

We plan on having a musical event the beginning of October to dedicate the new keyboard, so hope you can join us for that!

On October 25, we will have our Annual Craft Fair with a hot dog lunch. If you would like to rent a table for \$20, or know of any crafters who may be interested, contact me at (207) 399-6359. – *Faithfully Serving His Church, Diane Rawson, Elder*



Worship Committee:

I am pleased to say that the worship services are going great. Mary continues to play beautiful music for each service. The choir has the summer off, but we do have a few members who still help with leading the hymns. We are blessed to have such dedicated people in our choir.



Updates of people on our prayer list is very appreciated. God is good!

There is the potential of having a time of music, headed by Mary, within the next few months. Once everything is ready, there will be publicity so that everyone can attend. Mary has the touch for putting on a great event! So, "keep tuned." – *Debra Stowe, Worship Chair*



Some of you may have noticed that Pastor Paul is now ringing a small bell shortly after Mary begins to play introductory music to the service. It's an old tradition:

As early as 400 AD, handbells were used to call people to worship in Christian churches. After being introduced in France & Italy around 550, their use spread to Great Britain by monks & friars.

Bells are often rung to signify the start or conclusion of a time of prayer or quiet

reflection, but are also used during times of joy such as baptisms, Christmas, Easter, or on more solemn occasions, such as funerals, memorial services or on Good Friday.

The oldest church bells in the US are found in the Old North Church in Boston. They were cast in England in 1744, brought to the colonies & hung in the church in 1745. Although they were intended to ring for the glory of the British Empire, we all know Paul Revere rang them during his midnight ride in 1775 to warn colonists of advancing British troops. (FYI, Revere started his own bell foundry in 1792 & cast over 400 bells before his death in 1818.

SCCC used to have a bell choir & in fact, the bell Pastor Paul is ringing now, is inscribed with the name "Rev. David Van Strien," who served at our church from 1962 - 1980. In looking at our history, I discovered he sent the first newsletters to members & friends in 1966; in 1975, he & his wife gifted the church the stained-glass window in the front of the meeting room. In addition, the painting of Rev. Van Strien, painted by Christa Pauley, was commissioned by Floyd & Glenna Jordan in 1982. Quite a bit of interesting info!



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

***New church phone: (207) 313-7591**

***If you drop bottles off at the Redemption Center on Rte 3, you can request that SCCC receive the cash deposit & a check will be sent to us. Thank you!**

MEMBER NEWS Congratulations...

- ♥ To **Angela Feihel**, (Rosie's daughter), who married Jack Tyson on May 25, 2025 in Boothbay.
- ♥ To **Bernie & Jody Welch** on the birth of grandson Silas, born June 19 to daughter **Gillian** & son-in-law **Galen Lichterfeld**.
- ♥ To **Helen Emery** on the birth of 2nd grandson Silas, born May 28 to son **Mason** & daughter-in-law **Tesse**.
- ♥ To **Richard & Moriah Preston** on the August 1st birth of their 2nd child, Lydia Jean Preston. Proud grandparents are **David & Janet Preston**.
- ♥ To **Michael Emery** & girlfriend **Tekia**, who recently became engaged.
- ♥ To **Finn & Tressa Welch** on their August 16 wedding.
- ♥ Special blessings to **Eleanor & Penelope**, who were baptized at SCCC on August 6. They are the daughters of **Darian & Ali (Clair) Dziurzynski**, & granddaughters of **Jim & Jenny Clair**.
- ♥ Go to mbingomountaincoffee.com for info about Mbingo Mountain Coffee, the Waterville coffee roasting business founded by **Churchill Elangwe-Preston**. Here are some 2025 highlights:
 - In May, his team went to Africa to talk with the farmers & hear their stories. Mbingo Coffee supports several communities, preserves traditions & invests in sustainable livelihoods.
 - The Elangwe-Preston Community Youth Center opened in January & offers structured tutoring, one-on-one mentorship & encouragement

to local students. In just 6mos, they are excelling in their spelling, reading, & math. Your coffee purchases & donations directly fund tutors, supplies & provide a safe place where children can hope for a better future.

- Churchill has participated in Trek Across Maine, the 180-mile ride benefiting the American Lung Association, for 16yrs; Mbingo Coffee has been a sponsor for 3yrs. Your donations support medical research to help those with lung disease & advocate for clean air.
- In June, Mbingo attended the World of Coffee 2025 trade show in Geneva, which had 20,000 attendees & 430+ exhibitors from over 140 countries. Gaining new insight on sustainable farming, market trends & technology deepened Churchill's commitment to excellence. A small mountain-grown coffee can make a big impact!

Positive quotes



"Preach the Gospel at all times. When necessary, use words." - Francis of Assisi

"Reach out to someone currently facing a difficult season. Offer a word of encouragement that reminds them the journey is not the end of the story - God is walking with them." – Guideposts

"God is always doing 10,000 things in your life & you may be aware of three of them." - John Piper

"Take time today to thank God not only for what you understand, but also for the blessings and workings you don't yet see." - Guideposts



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

Richard Backofen (3/10/25)
Dawn (Pauley) Hodsdon (5/4/25)
Tom Ryan (5/5/25)
Nancy Harwath (5/25/25)
Franciska Blenk (6/25/25, Susie's mom)
Micah Plaisted (7/13/25)
Pauline "Polly" Tobey (7/26/25)

Please keep the Welch family in your prayers as Bernie's sister & Jody's cousin passed in May, as well as Mary Matteson, who lost her uncle in June.

NOTE: A special Memorial Service will be held (date to be announced) to honor & celebrate the lives of friends & family members we've lost. This commemoration service will be held at 11:30, following 'regular' Sunday service, with a moment of silence after a reading of names. Please see Pastor Paul or someone on the Council for further information & provide the name(s) of loved ones you would like included.



- † ADULT BIBLE STUDY & SUNDAY SCHOOL
SUNDAYS AT 9AM
- † SUNDAY CHURCH SERVICE, 10AM
- † COMMUNION: SEPT 7 - OCT 5 - NOV 2 -
DEC 7
- † PASTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND (PDF)
DONATION SUNDAY: NOV 30
- † BLESSED BREAKFAST, 2ND SATURDAY EACH
MONTH, 8-10 AM: SEPT 13 - OCT 11 - NOV
8 - DEC 13
- † OCTOBER 25 - CRAFT FAIR, 9AM-2PM
- † COMMUNITY THANKSGIVING DINNER, TBA



On the lighter side:

Q: Why were the trousers not
allowed to enter the school?

A: Because they were suspended

Teacher: Maria, go to the map & find North
America.

Maria: Here it is!

Teacher: Correct. Now class, who discovered
America?

Class: Maria.

Teacher: Glenn, how do you spell "crocodile"?

Glenn: K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L

Teacher: No, that's wrong.

Glenn: Maybe it's wrong, but you asked me
how I spell it.

USA MAP

A father wanted to read a magazine, but was being bothered by his little girl - she wanted to know what the United States looked like. Finally, he tore a sheet out of his new magazine, on which was printed the map of the country. Tearing it into small pieces, he gave it to her and said, 'Go into the other room and see if you can put this together. This will show you our whole country...'



After a few minutes, she returned and handed him the map, correctly fitted and taped together. The father was surprised and asked how she had finished so quickly.

'Oh,' she said, 'on the other side of the paper is a picture of Jesus. When I got all of Jesus back where He belonged, then our country just came together.'



South China Community Church
246 Village Street, PO Box 335
South China, ME 04358
southchinacommunitychurch.org

“I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.” - John 16:33

