

Storrs Chinese Christian Church Newsletter

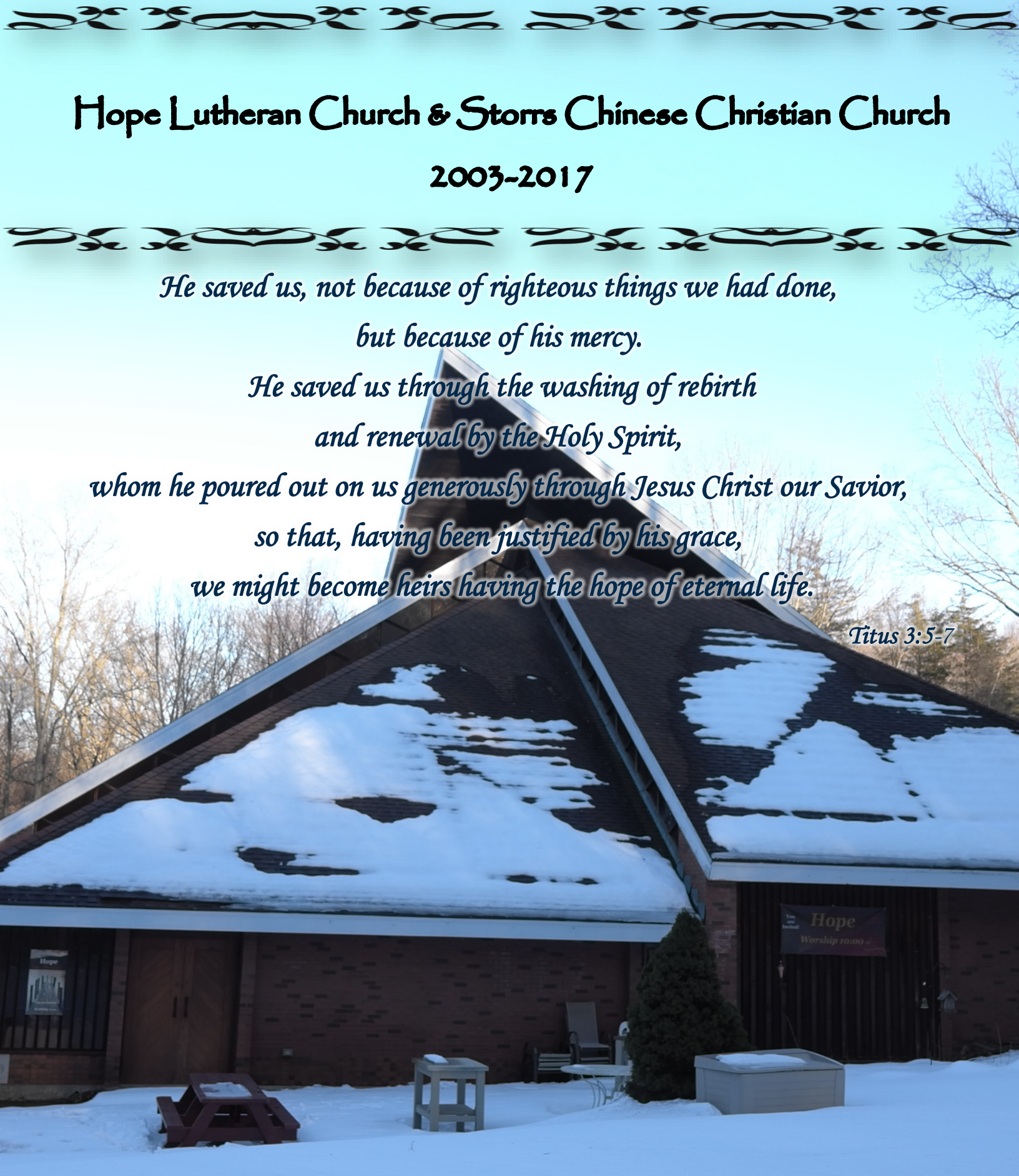
Volume 9 February 2017

Hope Lutheran Church & Storrs Chinese Christian Church 2003-2017

*He saved us, not because of righteous things we had done,
but because of his mercy.*

*He saved us through the washing of rebirth
and renewal by the Holy Spirit,
whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,
so that, having been justified by his grace,
we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.*

Titus 3:5-7



Nursery Room

- ◇ Room for Friday's Believer Bible Study Group
- ◇ Classroom for Sunday School



Basement

- ◇ Classroom for children on both Sundays and Fridays



Fireplace Room

- ◇ Room for English Bible Study Group
- ◇ Classroom for Adult Sunday School
- ◇ Classroom for Baptism courses



The Nave/Sanctuary

- ◇ Place for Sunday worship and Friday's special gathering
- ◇ Place for hymn worship and verse recitation each Friday since earlier 2016



Fellowship Hall/Kitchen

- ◇ Place for Sunday's fellowship
- ◇ Place for Friday's Seeker Bible Study Group
- ◇ Place for Friday's dinner and Sunday's refreshment

Our family first attended Storrs Chinese Christian Church at Hope Lutheran Church in 2007. We were very impressed by the architecture of the church building, especially the huge and stunning cross hanging at the center.

Over the past 10 years, I have been coming to this church almost every weekend. It has been a part of my life. I am fortunate that I had the opportunity to attend the bible study taught by Pastor Secker and Pastor Nollet, for both of them are very good bible teachers.

I am thankful for Hope Lutheran Church and Pastor Nollet. His big smile will always be remembered!

Koh Han Seow



? — 2011 — 2017 —

The title may look confusing to many people. These are the years marking my journey in Christ and the relationship between Hope Lutheran Church and Storrs Chinese Christian Church (SCCC). 2011 was the year I first came to Hope Church, and 2017 was the year SCCC moved out of Hope.

In October of 2011, I was first invited by a sister from SCCC to Hope. Without any background in Christianity, I was fascinated by the unique shape of the church building and its quiet and peaceful location, which just added more mysteries and piqued my curiosity in this place. As God's words shined through the darkness in our lives, I was touched by the words in the Bible and His love. After I realized the sin in me and the salvation from Jesus through His blood, I surrendered in His love and was baptized around Easter in the year after. Hope Church witnessed another newborn in Christ and walked alongside my first 5 years in this new life— my first bible study, my first worship, and my first Holy Communion. I have a lot of fond memories of Hope Lutheran Church.

Before I knew God, I was always trying to find a purpose in life. However, everything was transient. Only in the Lord that I could find eternity and satisfaction. We are all God's work and part of His plan. In Him, I know my life purpose, which is to live a holy life, to do His work, to spread His words, and to glorify Him. Just as God has a plan for me as a person, so do Hope and SCCC as churches. The relationship between Hope and SCCC started way back before I came here in 2011, which was why I used "?" in the title. This relationship may end temporarily in 2017, but just like there is no ending year in the title, our relationship in the Lord and His eternal work will never end.

May the Lord bless all His people in Hope and SCCC.
Until next time in Him!

Yue Wang

2012



2013



2014



2015



2016



2017



And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.'

Matthew 25:40



Abby Lau

It was a Thursday in the middle of March, the day after I took my third actuarial exam. Sunny yet windy, such was the weather on that day. It precisely described my feelings. Part of me felt relieved after the exam, but another part of me couldn't stop the disappointment that overcame me whenever I thought about my undesired exam result. My best friend, Jenna, who probably noticed my complicated feelings, suggested a walk after our lunch at the Storrs Center. Wanting to show her where I spent almost every Friday and Sunday since Freshmen year, I took her to the Hope Lutheran Church. Surprisingly, the door was open, but no one was there. The Church was quiet and peaceful. I could only hear my own voice telling Jenna all kinds of services we had there. When I reminisced over all the good times I spent at this Church, tears started to well up in my eyes. *God is here, pulling me out of my gloom*, I realized. He was not absent at that moment, just like He was always with me throughout all the good times. He knows, more than anybody else does, how hard I had studied and how sad I was after the exam. All of a sudden, I could feel the overwhelming peace of God quietly flooding over me.

I will never forget that walk, nor will I forget Hope Lutheran Church on that particular day. And indeed, Hope Lutheran Church has always served as a witness of God's blessings to me in the past four years. I seldom attended their events, and I didn't know anyone there. However, full of grace, the Hope Lutheran Church rented their home to the Storrs Chinese Christian Church, which I am associated with, allowing us to have a place to hold Bible Study and Sunday worship. With Hope Lutheran Church's provision of their space, Storrs Chinese Christian Church grew and flourished. Hope Lutheran Church's proximity to the campus offers convenience to many students, scholars, and faculty at UConn. Its cozy setting brings everyone together. Whenever we had events or services there, we felt close to everyone, bonding with the love from God. Many people were amazed by the hanging cross when they first entered the church. The cross reminds us of God's salvation, and it draws us into His grace. And what warms our hearts the most is the love from Hope Lutheran Church. Not only were they willing to offer their place for our gatherings, they also invited us to their Good Friday and Christmas Eve services every year, and encouraged us to co-work with them to build up and serve God's church together. Besides fulfilling our needs, they also invited the Bridge Church to gather at their place on Sunday evenings, and they even hold My Brothers Keeper pantry every Tuesday, providing food to those in need. Their love for us, the other Christian groups, and the local community always serves as an inspiration and encouragement. When we love one another, we know that God lives in us and His love is made complete in us.

Last year, we decided to move to a new church because of the growth in the Storrs Chinese Christian Church. It was a tough decision. For those of us who encountered God at this church, it is one of the most memorable places in their lives at UConn. How could we easily say goodbye to a place that is full of God's love, joy, hope, and blessings? While we will be nostalgic for Hope Lutheran Church, all those good times we spent there will continue to be like rays of sunshine, scattering throughout our journey with God. May God bless Hope Lutheran Church so that it will never cease to be a blessing to all!