

Echoes from the Hills

Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church • San Jose, California



COOP'S CORNER

CRAZY TIMES

Most of you know that when we returned from vacation in late January there was an overflow of raw sewage in our downstairs bathroom. We called our insurance company. They sent out an adjuster who determined we had damage in our bathroom, hall, entryway, guest bedroom, kitchen, and dining room (basically everything downstairs except the living room).

We hired a restoration company who took a couple of weeks to tear up the offending flooring, sheetrock, etc. and sanitize and dry everything out. It took us another week to find a construction company to put everything back together, and another week to get the insurance company's approval.

The long and short of it all is that we have been out of our house for the last five weeks (as of March 1st) and are projected not to get back into our home until the end of March. Thank God we have insurance!

Can you imagine trying to live in a hotel with a wife, daughter, and dog for five weeks? Mercifully, we had two bedrooms so Jacquie didn't have to sleep on the couch. Still, being away from home for this long is a strain.

Thankfully, they have moved us into an apartment for the remainder of the remodel which will give us breathing room.

On top of all that, February was *Stewardship Month*. Thank you all, by the way, for your generous support of this church, and especially the 17 of you who increased your pledge.

And now we are in the midst of Lent with Holy Week just around the corner. HELP!!! ☺

I share all this, not for you to feel sorry for us – trust me, it could be so, so, so much worse – but because it has made me realize a couple of things that I would like to share with you.

First, I realize how blessed I am. It wasn't a blessing to come home to an overflowing toilet, but it was a blessing to have many friends who generously offered us a place to stay (thankfully our homeowner's insurance is paying for our lodging and we haven't had to impose on any of you).

It is a blessing to have a wonderful church and even better job to come to every day. And it is a blessing to have such an amazing wife who has to put up with me in such tight quarters!

Secondly, as a result of all this craziness, I have had to rely more and more on God to keep me sane. And although I don't think that God engineered the sewage problem to get me to lean on him, I do think that he has used this situation to "encourage" our relationship.

Now, I don't pretend to suggest that my situation is a dire one. Those of you who have lost loved ones, jobs, health, etc. certainly have it much worse than me. What I am suggesting is that God is there for all of us, regardless of our circumstance.

God is there to lean on, as a resource, as a friend, as a comfort, and as someone who really, really cares.

I am truly blessed to have a relationship with a God who cares about me, with people who I can turn to and in whom I trust, and with a family that is in it for the long haul with me.

That's what makes this church, this family, such a special place to be. Thank God that we were all in one way or another brought to this place at this time!

May God continue to bless you and keep you and may his countenance shine upon you and give you peace.

Pastor Tom

Worship and Music

Marylyn Goode • Elder



Holy Week Services

March 20

Palm Sunday • 10:00 a.m.

•

March 24

Maundy Thursday • 7:00 p.m.

•

March 25

Good Friday Service • 7:30 p.m.

•

March 27

Easter Sunrise Service • 6:00 a.m.

Easter Celebration Service • 10:00 a.m.



IMMANUEL HOUSE

This year, Faith in Action will kick off on Thursday, March 31 by bringing dinner to the residents of Immanuel House.

WOMEN'S GATHERING PLACE

Friday, April 1, the women of the church are invited to fix a soup and sandwich lunch for the women of the Women's Gathering Place at First Presbyterian Church of San Jose.

SMUM

Saturday, April 2, we will be doing gardening work at SMUM (Santa Maria Urban Ministry) in downtown San Jose. We are working on adding at least one other project.

ACTIVITIES AT STHPC

Sunday, April 3, we will meet here at the church in the morning starting at 10 AM for a couple of hours to write letters for Bread for the World and pack lunches for Front Door Ministry. You can still sign up to bring the contents for the lunches.

YOUTH

The Youth, led by Kim Do and Elder Kate Manly, will have a service project Friday evening April 1. Please see the details on the next page.

SUNDAY POTLUCK AND WORSHIP

Sunday evening April 3, starting at 5 PM, we will have a potluck supper. Please sign up at the Activity Table so we will know that you plan to attend. Worship will begin immediately after the potluck at 6 PM. All are welcome whether you volunteered for a project or not. Please plan to attend.

Faith in Action sign up sheets are available the next few weeks giving you the chance to check your calendars and decide what project you can help with.



We also have the Food 4 Others Mobile Food Pack on Sunday, April 24 from 1 – 3 PM. We will be going to AQUI for

lunch after worship and before the food pack. A sign-up sheet will be available in a few weeks, but mark your calendar now!

HOPE

Thank you to all the HOPE members who donated at the January meeting to Immanuel House. I spent your \$150.00 donation on food for the house. Most meals for the five adults, two children and the house managers are a shared meal. The residents get a small amount in food stamps and the last week of the month they are often out of food money. I purchased meat, fruits, vegetables, eggs, butter and frozen fish for them. This will last them for a couple of weeks.

If anyone (or several people) is/are interested in being a Food Angel for IH, please let me know and I can provide you with the information and contact number to get you started. I am available to do the shopping for you if you like. - Yvonne Miller

Yvonne Miller, Church & World Ministry Elder



CHILDREN'S ED MINISTRY

Sunday School lessons for March will study God's covenant with us and prepare our children for the upcoming Holy Week activities. We are hoping to have a special presentation from our Sunday School children for Palm Sunday service (3/20). We invite you and your families to participate in as many of the special services and remind you that we do provide nursery/childcare, so that you can come and be 'fed' during Holy Week.

We are looking for a few more Sunday School helpers and/or nursery helpers. If you are interested in assisting with this very special ministry, please contact Cheryl Elliot.

Sunday School Teachers & Helpers:

Date	SS Teacher	SS Helper	SS Helper
3/13	Marilyn Morikang	Yolanda Wu	Debbie Serasio
3/20	Debbie Serasio	Claris Ngwa	Libby Souter
3/27	Gertrud Walker	Mindy Gerber	Emmanuel Ngwa
4/3	Faith in Action	no formal Sunday School this week	
4/10	Marilyn Morikang	Yolanda Wu	Debbie Serasio
4/17	Gertrud Walker	Claris Ngwa	Libby Souter

Cheryl Elliot, Children's Ed Ministry Elder

YOUTH MINISTRY

The youth will be participating in Faith in Action weekend. They have chosen to make blankets for the homeless and for a local animal shelter. This activity will be on Friday, April 1, at 7 PM at the church. For the next few weeks we will have a signup sheet for youth and adults to sign-up for supplies and to participate. All are welcome! And - there will be pizza! The items will be delivered to the shelters on Saturday or Sunday of Faith in Action weekend.

Also in the news....

Our youth program is currently building a calendar for activities and socials. All youth will be encouraged to invite a friend.

We hope to see you during Faith in Action.

Kate Manley, Youth Ministry Elder



SOUTH BAY CROP HUNGER WALK
 Sunday, April 24

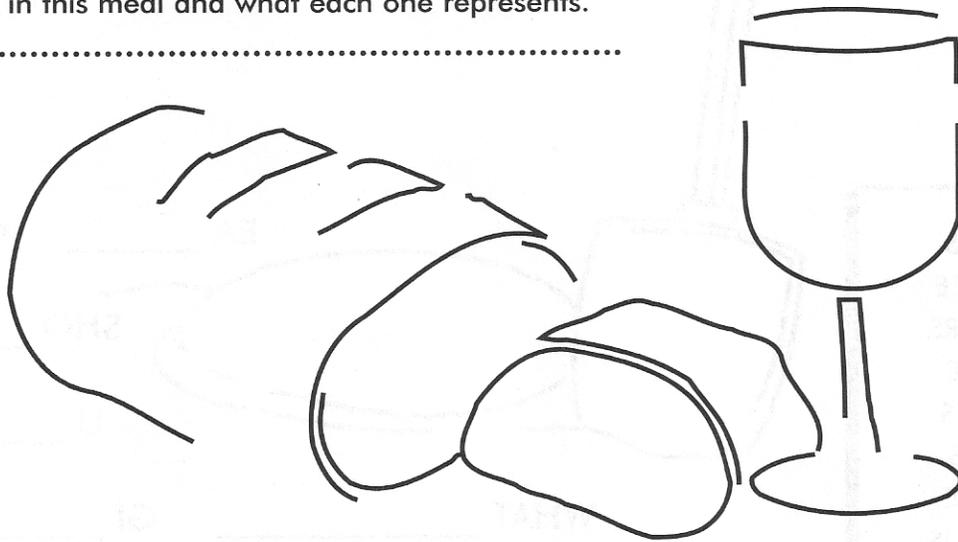
**The Lord's
Supper
Mark 14**

What a Meal!

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Jesus was eating the Passover meal on the night before he died. At this time he instituted a special meal called The Lord's Supper. Decipher the code below to find out what special ingredients are included in this meal and what each one represents.

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A=26, E=22, I=18, O=12, U=6

07	19	22	25	09	22	26	23	04	19	18	24	19					
09	22	11	09	22	08	22	13	07	08	19	18	08	25	12	23	02	
07	19	22	24	06	11	04	19	18	24	19							
09	22	11	09	22	08	22	13	07	08	19	18	08	25	15	12	12	23

VISIBILITY

- The banner contest is underway. To allow more time for participation, the submission date has been extended to April 11th. Create a banner that will capture the attention of passersby to encourage them to stop in and check us out as a possible home church. Email your creations to Debbie.Serasio@yahoo.com in .pdf, PowerPoint, or Word before the deadline. The winning selection will be published in the April Newsletter.
- Upcoming Newsletter publishing dates:
 - March 13
 - April 17
 - June 12

February Session Meeting recaps:

- The Per Capita amount has gone up to \$36.50 per person due to the departure of a number of churches from PCUSA and the Presbytery.
- The Annual Congregational meeting will be held on April 10, 2016 immediately following worship.
- The Presbytery wide PW meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2016 at Los Gatos Presbyterian church.
- There will be a Reading of the Records for Presbytery at STHPC on March 12, 2016.
- 30 purple volunteer vests will purchased to be worn when STHPC members are doing volunteer work so we look uniform. Robin DeJarnett has offered to donate up to \$400.00 for this cause. Thank you Robin!

Session meetings are open meetings where anyone can attend with the exception of infrequent personnel matters. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month starting at 7:00 PM.

Debbie Serasio, Visibility Ministry Elder

Music in the Parks Returning to STHPC



Music in the Parks is a unique program where choirs and bands perform and are judged in the morning and then head to an amusement park for fun and awards. STHPC will be hosting choirs at our venue, and the students will then go to Great America afterward. This year, STHPC will be a host venue for four Music in the Parks festivals, up from two last year. Dates for the festivals are all Saturdays: April 9th, May 7th, May 14th, and May 21st.

Hosting Music in the Parks is not only community service; it also brings in \$500 per event for STHPC. However, hosting requires more than just opening our doors to the choirs; we need to staff this event as well. Robin DeJarnett is coordinating the event, but she needs some help. Here are some of the jobs you can volunteer for:

- **Set up/tear down:** prepare the sanctuary and fellowship hall for the festival before and for worship after. Some setup will happen either Thursday or Friday before.
- **Sound/stage managers:** Set up and monitor the sound systems in the sanctuary and fellowship hall. Manage mics and stage crew.
- **Registration:** Check in the choirs and distribute tickets. Sell extra tickets to Great America.
- **Bus Greeter:** Meet the buses at the curb and direct the choirs to the entrance. Direct buses to parking on Chynoweth.
- **Concessions:** Set up and sell candy, donuts, coffee, and Music in the Parks t-shirts.
- **Announcer:** Announce the choirs on stage.

- **Choir Guides:** Escort choirs from the bus to warm up to performance (usually students).
- **Judges Care:** Provides the judges with water, pencils (if necessary), runs any forms that may be needed (usually a student).
- **Door monitors:** Make sure performances are not interrupted by people coming in and out.

Many of these jobs can be done by either adults or teens. Teens who volunteer will receive credit for their volunteer time. We will also be coordinating with Santa Teresa High School for volunteers, so some of our volunteers will already have experience working a Music in the Parks festival.

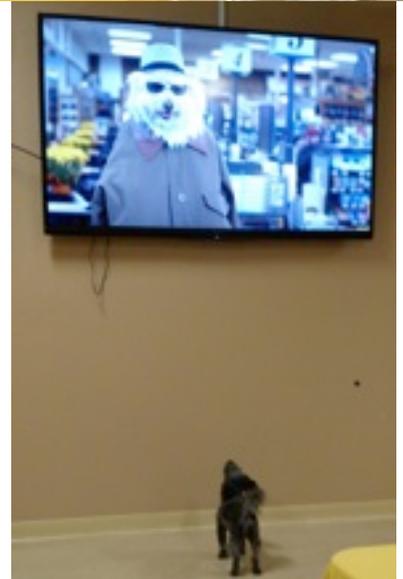
If you would like to help, please contact Robin DeJarnett at blondieakarobin@gmail.com or sign up after worship on Sundays. She will have sign up information including times and openings for all events. Thank you for supporting this community service event and for helping raise some money for STHPC!

Robin DeJarnett, Coordinator

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

Fellowship held a successful Superbowl Party on February 7. Twenty-three people and one dog enjoyed the game, the FOOD, rating the commercials, playing bingo and playing with the prizes! Even Princess, the dog, got in on the fun!

Lynn Hines, Fellowship Ministry Elder



Celebrate

come to
**Spuds With
Your Buds**

Baked Potato Potluck
Sat. March 19 @ 5:30
Fellowship Hall

**Baked potatoes provided, you bring the
toppings and side dishes.**
Sign up at the Activity Table.



STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Sunday, February 28, marked the end of our one month Stewardship Campaign with a celebration. This was the first time we moved the campaign from the end of year, which had been our traditional time for the stewardship campaign, to the beginning of the year. Let me, from the top of my lungs, "SHOUT OUT THANK YOU" to God Almighty and to all of you. Some of you have not only made financial pledges but you have also alongside made a personal commitment to devote your time and Talent towards God's work at STHPC. When we all started this journey on February 5, I was anxious but upbeat. Why? I always set high expectations for myself and because no matter how well I prepare, there is always some level of anxiety until everything is over and the successes have been evaluated.

As the title of our campaign says "My Church Family and the Virtues of Giving", I did not have to spend sleepless nights because the virtues of our church family at STHPC bares testimony to our legacy in trusting God. Our legacy comes from the following Matthew 7: 7 "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that knocketh it shall be opened." Thank you for responding to GOD's knock on your door for your time, talent and treasure. Thanks to members of my committee for their relentless commitment as well.

Emmanuel Ngwa, Stewardship Ministry Elder

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women will be meeting on Saturday, March 19th from 10 AM to noon in the Multi-Purpose room. We will be on lesson #6 from our Bible study "Come to the Waters". This lesson will look into Amos 5:21-24 and ask us to look at places in our world that need the cleansing waters of justice and righteousness. Anyone can join the Bible study anytime as each lesson is a separate subject. Our February meeting dealt with the Stormy Waters of Faith and how our faith can sustain us during difficult times.

Our annual Celebrate Women Service is taking shape, and we are now working on setting a date. We also informed the Buildings & Grounds committee that we will partner with them by providing the funding from our Fall Nut sales to help purchase a new Video Monitor in the Ember room and another one for the mobile video cart (that big old TV is just so not working well anymore!)

On April 9th from 9 AM-2:30 PM, the annual SJ PW Nurture retreat will be held at the Los Gatos Presbyterian Church. The theme for the day is 'Streams of Compassion'. Rev. Abby Mohaupt, Faith Community Liaison at Puente de la Costa Sur will lead us in a reflective day that helps us understand the challenge of Mission outreach for individuals and the Church. If you're interested in attending, you should plan on RSVPing by April 8th to Joyce Summers: 408-978-6449 or jarsummers@sbcglobal.net. There is a small fee (\$18) to help offset costs and cover the morning snacks and box lunch that will be provided.

Cheryl Elliot, Moderator



Helping Hands



Please help us help others who struggle to support and feed their families

Requested items: Cans of fruit and cans of vegetables, cans of soup or chili, canned meats, peanut butter & jelly, pasta & pasta sauce, and boxes of macaroni & cheese. Flip-top cans are appreciated by many!

Monthly summary: Between January 29 and March 3, 28 people were assisted; 25 people received food and 9 people received bus tokens. Kristie was able to honor requests for 1 gift card and 1 backpack. No one received cash.

Food donations totaled 504 lbs. Thank you for donations from STHPC: 106 lbs., St Julie's: 360 lbs, and Other: 38 lbs.

The Deacons and the Church & World Committee

Nursery Attendants

- 3/13 Ashley Fitzgerald
- 3/20 Alfred Morikang
- 3/27 Courtney Mays
- 4/3 Faith in Action
- 4/10 Ashley Fitzgerald
- 4/17 Alfred Morikang



Nursery care is provided for three year olds and younger, supervised by Rachele our nursery attendant and assisted by one of our rotating volunteers.

The nursery children are learning the same story each week as the Children's Sunday School class as Rachele provides story time.

As a reminder, parents please sign your children in and out of the nursery and use the name tags.

Cheryl Elliot, Children's Ed Elder



Income and Expenses

	February 2016 Month to Date	Through 2/16 Year to Date
Income	\$23,107	\$42,000
Expense	\$19,645	\$43,057
Net Income	\$3,462	-\$1,057

Thanks to Gertrud Walker, Edith Sona, Cheryl Elliot, and Beatrice Toche for treats in February and early March. And special thanks to those who helped clean up!

Treat Schedule for March & April

- 3/13 Jane & Jerry McMinn
- 3/20 Cathy Warrick (for Joe's birthday)
- 3/27 Mindy Gerber
- 4/3 Faith in Action
- 4/10 open
- 4/17 open



Sign up at the Activity Table to bring treats for your special occasion



Reasons to Celebrate!

Birthdays

- March 2 *Meg Roebuck*
- March 3 *Ruth LeBas*
- March 5 *Nathan McArthur*
- March 6 *Ryan Guerrero*
- March 12 *Vern Tegger, Caryl Brown*
- March 15 *Jacquie Keathley*
- March 16 *Linda Buckley, Bill Simmons*
- March 19 *Christopher Needham*
- March 20 *Gil Chesterton, Joe Buttle*
- March 25 *Joy Lee*
- March 26 *Alec Paterson*
- March 28 *Carolyn Tulloch*

Anniversaries

- March 10 *Emmanuel & Claris Ngwa*

Go Green!

Want to help the church save paper, ink, trees, and money? Sign-up to receive your copy of Echoes from the Hills by email! Please email Lynn Hines at not57@sbcglobal.net to begin receiving your newsletter by email. Your church and your planet thank you!

Newsletter Staff

Editor: Lynn Hines
 Proofreader/Publisher:
 Kristie Reed
 Elder: Debbie Serasio



ACTIVITIES FOR EVERYONE

Activities are open to all members and visitors - come check out what is happening!

- EVERY SUNDAY: TWO-CAN SUNDAY: BRING YOUR FOOD DONATIONS FOR THE DEACON'S PANTRY TO WORSHIP
- Second Sunday: Church and World Ministry Team after Worship
- All Other Sundays: Church Library Open after Worship
- Every Thursday: Choir Practice At STHPC at 7:30 pm.
- First Tuesday: Fellowship Ministry Team at STHPC at 7:15 PM
- Second Tuesday: Session meeting at STHPC at 6:59 PM
- Second Saturday: Men's Fellowship meets at 8:30 AM in the Multipurpose room.
- Third Tuesday: Presbyterian Women at STHPC at 7:00 PM. - every other month
- Third Saturday: Presbyterian Women at STHPC at 10:00 AM - every other month
- Third Sunday: Deacon's meeting at STHPC, following worship.
- Last Sunday: Breakfast at Aqui Restaurant (Blossom Hill & Snell) following worship (around 11:30ish)

Upcoming Events

Holy Week	March 20 - 27 see page 2 for details
Spuds with Your Buds	Saturday, March 19 @ 5:30 (see page 8 for details)
Faith in Action	March 31 - April 3
Faith in Action Potluck	April 3 @ 5:00 PM
Faith in Action Worship Service	April 3 @ 6:00 PM

*Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church,
The Reverend Tom Coop, Pastor*
www.sthpc.org

Adult Sunday School: 9:00 AM (child care available)

Worship: 10:00 AM

Sunday School PreK - 8th grade 10:00 AM

**Regular Office Hours: Tuesday thru Friday
9:30 AM - 3:00 PM**

**For Pastoral care: The Office (408)629-5906 or
Pastor Tom's cell (408)234-8553**

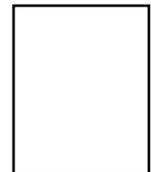
Church Bulletin deadline: Thursday 9:00 AM

Church Historian: Barb Overholt

**Church Newsletter deadline: April 5
for April 17 Newsletter**
email your information to Lynn Hines at not57@sbcglobal.net

Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church
5370 Snell Ave.
San Jose, CA 95123

Phone: 408-629-5906



Palm Sunday March 20
Maundy Thursday March 24
Good Friday March 25
Easter Sunday March 27

