

Echoes from the Hills

Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church • San Jose, California



COOP'S CORNER

“Just Do It!”

The two political conventions are over and neither party's candidate exudes confidence. Police around the country are shooting unarmed black men and black men are shooting police. There is terrorism exploding not just here in this country, but around the world. Climate change is no longer a theory – it is here to stay. Then there's the Zika virus.

How on earth are we to respond, when many are so scared, overwhelmed, wondering if they are next? And where is God? Why does God allow such violence, bigotry, ignorance, hatred, and suffering to exist?

Someone once said, (I can't remember who – not that unusual for me!), that that's why God made us - so we could deal with all this. God will be with us ... but we need to take responsibility. Maybe they are right.

So how do we respond, because the truth is, we must respond, right? Ann Lamott, one of my favorite Christian authors, said a couple of weeks ago: “We must respond with a show of force equal to the violence and tragedies, with love force. Mercy force. Un-negotiated compassion force. Crazy caregiving to the poor and suffering, including ourselves.

“Patience with a deeply irritating provocative mother. Two dollar bills to the extremely annoying guy at the intersection, who you think maybe could be working, or is going to spend your money on beer.

“Jesus didn't ask the blind man what he was going to look at after he restored the man's sight. He just gave hope and sight. He just healed.”

So the question might be, “Who can you give hope and sight to today?”

And maybe we also need to be willing to stand up and say, “Enough is enough!” when politicians, friends, neighbors, family spew hate, not love; prejudice, not compassion; fear, not assurance.

We are called to love God and love one another. What is so hard about that? And yet, over and over we stand pat. We complain, we say we feel bad, we think it is unjust, but still we do nothing. Maybe it isn't that real to us, because it hasn't hit home yet. Everything is happening – over there (wherever there is).

But as Christians we can't ignore it. We need to stand up and proclaim what we believe and not only proclaim it, but stand behind it and beside it and in front of it ... and then live it out.

Love God and love one another! Just do it!

Pastor Tom

CHURCH AND WORLD MINISTRY

SCHOOL BACKPACKS: A huge thanks to all those members and “friends” of STHPC for your donations of school supplies for 3rd to 5th grade children served by our mission partner Santa Maria Urban Ministry. Although each item may be affordable to us, the total supplies, along with the backpack itself, make for a sizable gift to a low income child. Thanks to Kate Manley and our youth group for assembling and filling the 24 backpacks and to Annie Sunseri for two extra backpacks.

The annual Peacemaking Offering - to be received on October 2, World Communion Sunday, was approved by Session at their July meeting. This year’s theme is “COME TO THE TABLE OF PEACE”: Can God spread a table in the wilderness? We are well aware of the violence occurring on many levels: international, domestic, local (gang, workplace), and interpersonal (domestic, bullying). Our world is broken, wild, and dangerous. But even in the wilderness, God spreads a table of peace, grace, and reconciliation. Amid violence and division in

our streets, homes and schools, God’s table is set—and we are invited to participate. Come September, more resources will be shared to help you understand why funds are needed and where the offering will go. As usual, 25% will go to a local organization, working towards peacemaking or global witness, 25% to our Presbytery for similar efforts, and 50% to our national church. As Pastor Tom reflected in a recent sermon, we don’t want to become numb or desensitized to violent acts we hear of in the media. What can we do as Christians to find solutions? **Do you know of any effective local organizations working towards peacemaking or global witness?** You can talk to any Church & World Ministry team member.

Do you have a passion for Social Justice, Mission or Church and World concerns? Please talk to Linda Buckley, Elder, or visit our NEXT meeting: August 14 at 11:30 AM. We have snacks!!

Linda Buckley, Church & World Elder

VISIBILITY/ SESSION NOTES

July Session Meeting Recaps

- 1.) We are engaging the organization Worship Times to revise our website. The target is to have a more modern website with mobile-friendly attributes and better search engine optimization. When people are looking for a new church they will likely search via the internet on their smart phones or tablets and we hope to have our website come up near the top of the list. Look for a website launch in a few weeks! And be sure to post a review of our church on Yelp!
- 2.) Session authorized funding for roof repair, repair of water damage to the Multipurpose Room wall, new gutters and a new paint job for the church. The main body of the church will be Malibu Beige with Bone ceilings and Tahoe Blue trim, posts and downspouts.

Bill Simmons, Visibility Elder

YOUTH MINISTRY

Service and fun are the summer themes for our Youth. On July 31 the Youth, with supplies donated by the congregation, helped fill backpacks for Santa Maria Urban Ministry. Friday, August 26 at 6:30 PM we have tentatively scheduled a youth video game party. If you have a youth or are a youth (5 – 8th grade) you will be hearing from us!

We have also started the search for a new youth director. We are hoping to find someone by September.

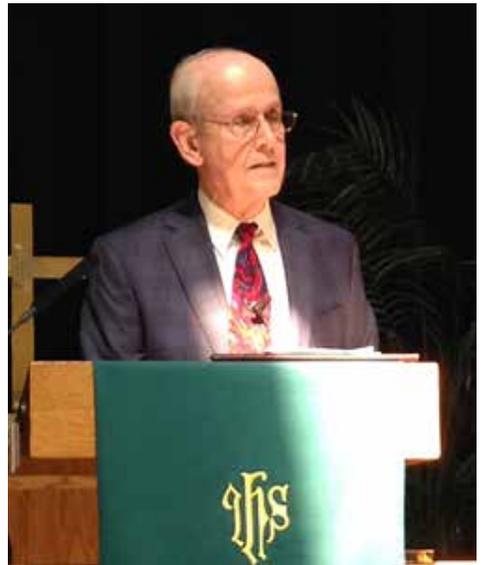
Kate Manley, Youth Elder

Worship and Music Dave Robertson • Elder

On July 3, we were blessed to once again have Rev. Dale Bracey step up to the pulpit in Pastor Tom's absence. Rev. Bracey's sermon, "A Declaration of Inter-Dependence," was inspired by the scripture texts from 1 Samuel 11:1-13 and 2 Corinthians 8:9-15.

Installation and Ordination of Deacons/Elders

On June 12, Pastor Tom ordained **Annie Sunseri** (deacon) and **Sharon Simmons** (elder, Membership and Outreach). Installation into the following ministries were **Lynn Hines** (Congregational Engagement), **Linda Buckley** (Church and World), **Mike Manley** (Administration), **Lucas Mudoh** (deacon), and **Dave Robertson** (Worship and Music).



Rev. Dale Bracey



L-R: Annie Sunseri, Lynn Hines, Sharon Simmons, Linda Buckley, Mike Manley, Lucas Mudoh, Dave Robertson.

Ushers and Worship Leaders!

Thanks to our worship leaders in June and July: *Marylyn Goode, Horace Hines, Delynn Coop, Harlan Otter, Paul Elliot, Barb Overholt*. To our volunteer ushers during June and July: *Chris De La Roca, Cathy Williams, Marylyn Goode, Rebecca Elliot, Cheryl and Paul Elliot, the McMinns, the Manleys* - thank you!

Usher coordinator *Rebecca Elliot* schedules ushers and would appreciate members signing up for a Sunday in the next several months. The sign-

up sheet is on the Activity Table in the courtyard every Sunday after worship.

Please contact Dave Robertson if you're interested in being a Worship Leader; it's very rewarding and only a little bit scary the first time!



Summer Warblers

Many thanks to our very talented members who blessed us with their musical talents during the summer:

Mary Kohlmeier, Michael Kuo, Dave Robertson, Joe Taff, Cathy Williams. A very special thank you to *Mary Jane Judge* as substitute organist on July 31.

Heavenly Warblers

Our fantastic choir, under the direction of Joe Taff and accompanist Michael Kuo, starts up again in September. Please contact Joe if you're interested in joining the choir or just sitting in on a rehearsal to see what it's like.

Coming Up:

August 7, September 4 • Communion
September 11 • Homecoming Sunday



Annual Homecoming Sunday

Sunday, September 11, 2016

Breakfast 9:00 AM

Worship 10:00 AM

Sign up at the Activity Table to bring one of the following (to serve 8 - 10):

Egg Puff (recipe provided)

or other breakfast casserole of your choice

Fruit

Muffins/bread

(if you're not at church to sign up just come and bring something!)

Juice, coffee, and place settings provided

EGG PUFF

9 X 13 pan 350° for 35 - 45 minutes

10 eggs
1 pint cottage cheese
1 tsp baking powder
1/2 cup melted butter
1 pound cheese (Cheddar, Swiss, Jack, Pepper Jack - grated)
and/or 1 pound cooked meat (bacon, sausage, chorizo, ham, etc.)

1/2 cup flour
1/2 tsp salt

and/or anything else (chilies, artichoke hearts, mushrooms, favorite spicy chili, veggies, etc)

Beat eggs before adding other ingredients. Pour into 9 X 13 inch baking dish that has been sprayed with cooking spray.

Can be made up to 3 days ahead and stored unbaked in the refrigerator.

Allow to reach room temperature before placing in oven to bake.

Bake at 350° F, for 35 - 45 minutes, or until eggs are done.



Hettie Lou Downing: A Beautiful Remembrance ...

For those who attended Hettie Lou's memorial service on April 16 of this year, mementos belonging to Hetti Lou were available to take home in the courtyard after the service.

I selected an item that was perfect for remembering Hettie Lou – a hummingbird wind chime. I hung this wind chime on my back patio next to a hummingbird feeder next to the windows of the French doors, and it didn't take long before a particular humming bird took personal possession of both.

Every day, for long periods of time, this little humming bird perches on the wind chime and sways gently on it with the breeze. What a wonderful way to remember Hettie Lou.

- Barb Overholt



Enjoy the beautiful setting
in the Santa Cruz mountains
just outside Saratoga

Saturday, August 27

An adult afternoon/evening of
wine tasting, picnic dinner
and music.

Wine tasting: Come by 4:30 for
the last tasting. Tasting room
open 11 AM - 5 PM. A flight of 5
wines is \$10.

Music and Picnic: Grounds
open at 4:00, music at 6:00
provided by Dulce Musica
playing jazz to contemporary
pop. Seating is first come first
served, bring a picnic (no
cooking allowed), a non-
alcoholic beverage, and a
blanket/chair. \$10/ticket. Wine by
the bottle and glass for sale.
Bring a jacket, the mountains
can get chilly.

Sign-up at the Activity Table!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Summer Sunday School has been engaging our children to help them learn what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. We have also gone 'traveling' around the world as each of the lessons has a section teaching about a different country. We hope that all the kids will be able to attend as many Sundays as they can and invite a friend or two to come aboard for an awesome trip. In the Fall we will be returning to our LIVE BIG curriculum which has lessons geared to serve PreK-1st and 2nd-4th. Thanks to all the Sunday School teachers for preparing lessons and bringing God's word to our children.

Summer Sunday School Teachers and Helpers:

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Lead Teacher</u> | <u>SS Helper</u> | <u>Lesson #</u> |
|-------------|---------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| 8/7 | Cheryl Elliot | Claris Ngwa | summer #10 |
| 8/14 | Cheryl Elliot | Emmanuel Ngwa | summer #11 |
| 8/21 | Marilyn Morikang | Lynn Hines | summer #12 |
| 8/28 | DeLynn Coop | Lynn Hines | summer #13 |
| 9/4 | Cheryl Elliot | Claris Ngwa | summer #14 |
| 9/11 | Gertrud Walker | Emmanuel Ngwa | |

Vacation Bible School was held the week of July 18 - 22. We teamed up with Oak Grove Baptist Church again this year and had about 30 kids come to learn about Jesus - the Light of the World who gives us HOPE, COURAGE, DIRECTION, LOVE and POWER. I would like to thank the many volunteers that came from STHPC to make this exciting week happen. Crew Leaders: Emily Manley - PreK; Posey Shiu - K ; Breanna Fitzgerald - 1st & 2nd grade; Catherine Needham and Margarita Zvereva - 3rd & 4th grade; Station helpers: Alex Manley - Bible Quest; Rebecca Elliot - Crafts and Annie and Stefano Sunseri and Posey's grandson Tommy - Games. Pastor Tom (aka 'Clark Cavern') and I had fun doing a skit each morning for the kids. Lisa Wagner from Oak Grove and I co-directed this VBS and loved seeing the kids soak up everything presented. Can't wait to start planning for next year!



Cheryl Elliot, Children's Ed Elder

Cave Quest - VBS 2016



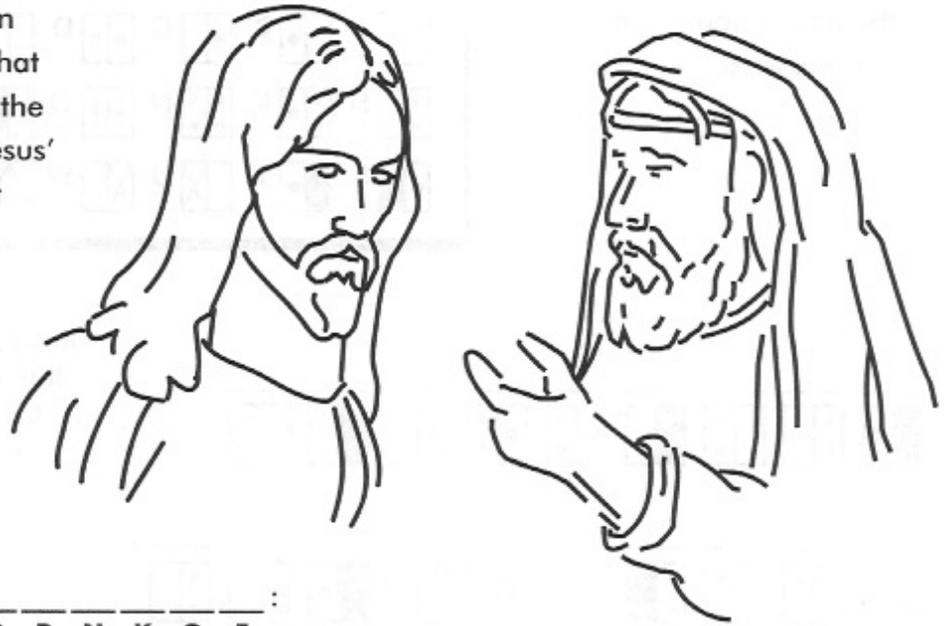
**The Greatest
Commandment**
Matthew 22; Mark 12

The Greatest One

.....

Jesus was asked to select the greatest commandment in the law. Write the letter that comes two letters before the letter given to discover Jesus' answer. Think of different ways you can follow this commandment.

.....



_____ :
L G U W U T G R N K G F

" _____
N Q X G V J G N Q T F A Q W T I Q F

_____ :
Y K V J C N N A Q W T J G C T V

_____ :
C P F Y K V J C N N A Q W T U Q W N

_____ :
C P F Y K V J C N N A Q W T O K P F

_____ :
V J K U K U V J G H K T U V

_____ :
C P F I T G C V G U V E Q O O C P F O G P V

Happenings Around STHPC



Keith and Mona Johnson and Dorothe Miller celebrate their move to St. George Utah. "We'll be back," they say as they have family in the area - and opera tickets!



Steve and Robin DeJarnett celebrated their 25th anniversary July 27!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women are taking the summer off. I hope everyone is having a wonderful time enjoying the wonders of our God's world!

Starting in September, we will embark on Presbytery Women's new bible study for 2016 - 2017. It is entitled, "Who is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes". We will be led on a journey to expand our understanding of who Jesus was and is...a journey of our hearts and minds, a journey that we will take together. We will explore 'Who is Jesus' through nine different theological lens: according to Mark, Matthew, Luke, and John, to Paul, to the Hebrews, to the non-canonical gospels, to the Abrahamic faiths and lastly according to the contemporary cultural interpretations. The Bible Study books and the DVD have arrived, so I'll be passing those out to those who are interested in embarking on this great bible study. Let me know! Remember, you can join in at any time with this study as each month will have a new focus. Enjoy the rest of your summer. God Bless.

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 June 1 and July 31, 44 people were assisted; 36 people received food and 18 people received bus tokens. Kristie was able to honor requests for 4 gift cards.

Food donations totaled 564 lbs. We are SO grateful to a friend of the church who gave 320 lbs. of food!! Thank you for donations from STHPC: 176 lbs., St Julie's: 34 lbs., and Other: 34 lbs.

The Deacons and the Church & World Committee

Nursery Attendants

8/7 Alfred Morikang
 8/14 Nan Brown
 8/21 Courtney Mays
 8/28 Ashley Fitzgerald
 9/4 Alfred Morikang
 9/11 Nan Brown



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

Thank you to Claris Ngwa, Cathy Warrick, Annie Sunseri, Jerry McMinn and the Fellowship Team for treats in June and July. Thanks also to the Manley Family for coffee every Sunday and all the clean-up helpers! The "open" dates below are opportunities to help make Santa Teresa Hills your church.

Treat Schedule/Clean-up help needed also

| | | | |
|-----------|---------------|-----------|-------------------|
| August 7 | Cheryl Elliot | August 14 | open |
| August 21 | open | August 28 | Manley Family |
| Sept. 4 | open | Sept. 11 | Homecoming Sunday |
| Sept. 18 | Souter Family | | |



Amount for a "normal" Sunday is approximately ONE of the following: Ten dozen cookies, OR - 6 dozen donuts, cut in half, OR - 3 - 9X13 pans of brownies, cut small, OR - a sheet cake from Costco, OR - \$15.00 and we will purchase for you! Sign-up at the Activity Table or the Treat Table.



Reasons to Celebrate!

Birthdays

August 2 *Jim Wright*
 August 3 *Sherry Burch*
 August 8 *Dave Robertson, Jane McMinn,
 Cynthia Greene*
 August 12 *Steve DeJarnett*
 August 20 *Kyle Calzia*
 August 24 *Zoe Walker, Chris Mays*
 August 25 *Catherine Needham, Ruby Webb*
 August 27 *Alma Morikang*
 August 31 *Austin Keathley, Brittany Tambe*
 Sept. 9 *Brandon Manley, Cathy Warrick
 Hersh Brown*
 Sept. 12 *Mary Paterson*
 Sept. 13 *June McCullough*
 Sept. 17 *Rebecca Elliot
 Rick Needham*
 Sept. 21 *Claire McFeely*
 Sept. 28 *Geoffrey Elliot*

Anniversaries

Aug 2 *Bill & Sharon Simmons*
 Aug 6 *Mona & Keith Johnson*
 Aug 13 *Mike & Kate Manley*
 Aug 21 *Scott & Carolyn Calzia*
 Aug 24 *Ross & Libby Souter*
 Sept. 1 *Dave and Carol Robertson*
 Sept. 17 *Rick and Laura Needham*



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

- Sat., Aug. 6
5 PM SJ Giants game
meet there!
- Saturdays
thru Sept. 9
7 PM continuation of
'Christian Heroes
Through the
Centuries' movies
- Sat., Aug. 27 Savannah-Channel
Winery event
(see pg 5 for details)
- Sun., Sept. 11 Annual Homecoming
9 AM Breakfast (see pg. 4)
10 AM Worship



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

**Adult Sunday School: 9:00 AM (on summer break,
see the study guide in each Sunday bulletin)**

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

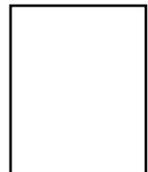
Church Historian: Barb Overholt

**Church Newsletter deadline: September 1
for September 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



Annual Homecoming Sunday



Sunday, September 11, 2016
Breakfast 9:00 AM
Worship 10:00 AM
(see pg 4 for details)

