

# Echoes from the Hills

Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church • San Jose, California



## COOP'S CORNER

### The Next Four Years

The surprise, the shock, the elation, the disappointment (choose your emotion) has begun to die down a bit following Donald Trump's election as the next President of the United States.

Whether you were devastated or delighted, the result is the same. The question is, how are we, as people of faith, going to live out the next four years?

And so, here's what I hope we will be, or at the very least strive to be, in this, our church family.

*True confession: much of what follows I have adapted from a sermon that my good friend, Rev. Irene Pak, a Korean American, and pastor at Stone Church, preached shortly following the election.*

In this family, we will continue to stand up for the homeless, the poor, and the oppressed.

In this family, we will stand up for the rights of women and we will continue to defend the rights of our gay/lesbian/transgender members, friends, and family. And in this family, we will stand up for the rights of those who are differently abled.

In this family, we can be unashamedly Christian and proclaim that we love Jesus AND we can love and protect the freedom of religion among all of our neighbors – especially our Muslim brothers and sisters.

In this family, we will not be afraid. Okay, maybe there will be times when we will be afraid, but that will not keep us from speaking up when we see injustice.

That injustice can be when a woman is being cat called. That injustice can be when you hear someone yelling racial slurs or telling someone to go back home to where they're from. (*which happened to my friend, in Willow Glen of all places.*)

We acknowledge that injustice is any form of bullying or belittling of any child of God ... even one with whom we disagree.

And although we may have different views on how to handle illegal immigration, in this our church family we will strive to ensure that families are not torn apart. And that those who are law abiding, tax paying, and productive members of our society are treated fairly and with respect.

In this family, we need to learn to say that Black Lives Matter. Not because for one second we believe that all lives do not matter. Of course we believe that. But we need to learn how to say that black

lives matter, because right now in this country, if you are black or even brown, it is the truth that in the opinion of many, your lives are not as important; that you have been and are currently being targeted. And so, you live with more fear than those of us who are white.

We need to learn how to affirm that we hear our neighbors, friends, and family who tell us that they do not feel like they can walk through life in this country in the same way I do.

Finally, in this family, we will protect one another and keep each other safe. That does not mean we will not disagree or be conflict free. Conflict is not the enemy.

But as the Rev. Aimee Moiso recently shared: "The real question is how we will engage conflict and division in this hour. We do not have to give up our principles and integrity in order to keep the peace or acquiesce to false unity for some unnamed higher good. Conflict is here anyway. We need to decide who we want to be in the midst of it."

I have hope for the future. My hope, though, does not exist in a man (or woman). It exists in my faith in Jesus Christ.

And so, in the next four years, if you are tired, afraid, or weary, know that you can always come here to Santa Teresa Hills to gain some strength for your souls because the power and love of God through the life of Jesus is alive here, now, and always.

And we will always proclaim the two great commandments that this church stands on: Love of God and love of our neighbor (ALL OF THEM!).

Be blessed, my friends. And I look forward to seeing you on Sunday!

*Pastor Tom*

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## CHURCH AND WORLD MINISTRY

### ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS IS HERE

If you were in worship November 13, you heard what you can do if you're tired of getting pajamas every year from Aunt Matilda, that Chia sprouting hamster or just have too much STUFF! Check out our table for the next few Sundays in the courtyard! You are encouraged to honor a loved one by giving to one or more of the mission partners below. Cathy Warrick has made lovely colorful decorative cards to personalize your Christmas gift which keeps giving.

**Cristadelphian Center for the Blind and Handicapped**-a rehabilitation center for the disabled in Cameroon, needs a new water tank. We have helped them in the past and they still need our support.

**Immanuel House**-our Presbytery-sponsored home for vetted refugees. Although we had told the Congregation recently, of Immanuel House's request for a computer, they need some basic

furniture-such as dressers-for the residents' rooms so our gifts will go towards furniture.

**Presbyterian USA Giving Catalog:** Our own Youth Group, has chosen to raise funds for a WELL. Their goal is \$2,000 for the well and \$500 for accompanying water-related items. This will go to a village in a developing country. To give a well, is like "giving [the village] a fishing pole, rather than fish" with the benefits of safer drinking water and saving women the long walk to haul water jugs.

### CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

The annual Christmas Joy Offering (Presbyterian Church USA) will be received on December 20. These funds are divided in half: with 50% going to retired Presbyterian clergy, staff and families in need, and the other 50% to racial ethnic education and leadership development. Please watch for the letter which will give more specifics.

**IMMANUEL HOUSE:** Mason Paterson's cub scout troop took supplies to IH, had a tour of the house and met some of the residents. Thanks to Mary Paterson for making this happen and helping the scouts to fulfill one of their requirements.



**MISSION ACTIVITIES AROUND THE PRESBYTERY:** Church and World Elder Linda Buckley, recently attended a roundtable networking luncheon with mission chairs from 6 other congregations. This was sponsored by the San Jose Presbytery and chaired by Rev. Margaret Boles, the Presbytery Outreach and Mission Task Force, wants congregations to connect regarding their local and international mission and outreach activities. Our own church and world ministry team is considering reinstating our Mission Faire, holding quarterly Faith in Action events, and partnering with other congregations to increase participation. Talk to any of us with your ideas or feedback: Bob Toche, Yvonne Miller, Lynn Hines, Cathy Warrick, Caryl Brown, Mike Manley and Sharon Simmons.

*Linda Buckley, Church & World Elder*

**Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church**  
presents its 10th annual

# Community Christmas Dinner

**Saturday • December 10**  
**2:00 p.m. — 4:00 p.m.**

Help those in need of a hot meal and warm, friendly faces by bringing a dish to this event.

**Signup Sheet in Courtyard**  
or contact:  
**Joy Lee • 831.206.6339**

# Worship and Music Dave Robertson • Elder



*We were delighted to have the sound of choir bells accompany our choir on Sunday, November 20!*

## Thank you ...

... to our worship leaders for October and November: *Linda Buckley, Laura Davis (twice), Cheryl Elliot, Marylyn Goode, Jay Hartley, Dave Robertson, Edith Sona, and Bob Toche*. Please contact Dave Robertson if you're interested in being a Liturgist. Thanks to our Volunteer Ushers during October and November! 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.



## Frosty, Jingle Bells, Rudolph, Santa?

Yes, it's Advent! When we think of Christmas how often do those images come to mind first? It takes a little more thought to imagine John the Baptist, Mary, Elizabeth or the Shepherds. What do they bring to Christmas? We'll find out each Sunday as Pastor Tom connects the commercial characters of Christmas with the messages brought by their biblical counterparts. Plus, all our favorite family activities right up through our Christmas Eve services.

## Advent Sunday Schedule

### November 27 • First Sunday of Advent

*The Candle of Hope*



### December 4 • Second Sunday of Advent

*The Candle of Peace*

Decorating the Christmas Tree  
Communion Served



### December 11 • Third Sunday of Advent

*The Candle of Joy*

Children's Play



### December 18 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

*The Candle of Love*

Special Choir Music  
Carols Around the Piano



### December 24 • Christmas Eve Services

7:30 p.m. and 11 p.m.



### December 25 – No worship service

Sunday worship services resume  
on January 1 and 8

# Worship and Music (cont.)



## Welcome Tiffany Shi • New Musical Accompanist

A recent graduate from Louisiana State University with a doctoral degree in piano performance, Tiffany worked at the university for over five years as a teaching assistant where she was responsible for individual student development. She also has accompanied several symphonic orchestras, operas and school choirs as well as directing two church choirs where she was responsible for their musical preparation. Since 2015, she had been working as a piano teacher at Live Oak United Methodist Church in Watson, LA. She is passionate about her music and her talent and expertise at those ivory keys are proof of this passion.

When you get a chance in the Sundays to come, please take the time to introduce yourself and give a warm welcome to this very talented and dedicated young lady.



## Advent Candlelighters



*Advent Candlelighters • November 27*  
*The Ngwa Family (l-r): Emmanuel, Miyah, Teke, Claris*



*Tony Murphy Engo was proudly presented to the congregation by his parents, Valentine and Divina with the support of family and friends on Sunday, November 27. Welcome Tony!*

## CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

The birth of Jesus shows God's hope for the world. This is our theme for our children's Sunday School lessons for the month of December. We will also be preparing for our Children's Christmas play to be performed Sunday, December 11 during the worship service. Carol Miller has again graced us with an original play, entitled "An Angel's View". The youth will be working together with the younger Sunday School kids to present this play to the congregation. I encourage all of our kids to come each Sunday to participate in all of our fun activities during advent.

Merry Christmas from all of us in Children's Education. We pray that your holidays will be filled with joy.

*Cheryl Elliot, Children's Ed Elder*

### Sunday School Teachers and Helpers:

Date	Lead Teacher	SS Helper
12/4/2016	DeLynn Coop	Sharon Simmons
12/11/2016	Marilyn Morikang	Yolanda Wu
12/18/2016	Gertrud Walker	Emmanuel Ngwa
12/25/2016	NO WORSHIP SERVICE OR SUNDAY SCHOOL	
1/1/2017	Cheryl Elliot	TBD
1/8/2017	Lynn Hines	Claris Ngwa
1/15/2017	Gertrud Walker	Sharon Simmons

## YOUTH MINISTRY

Please help the Youth raise money for the PCUSA Alternative Giving campaign. The Youth group goal is to raise \$2000 for a full garden well, and another \$500 for water collection materials, pumps, and filtration devices. A well and hand pumps provide clean water for drinking, bathing, washing, and irrigation to an entire community. Change the lives of countless people by giving them a reliable and convenient source of water. Watch our candy cane giving thermometer and help us to reach our goal!

Confirmation class will finish on December 11, 2016 and the youth will be confirmed during the December 18th service.

*Kate Manley, Youth Elder*

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12-19-1997

I'M SORRY GUY, I KNOW THAT YOU'VE GOT  
A GOOD HEALTH PLAN AND YOU GIVE OUT  
FREE GIFTS AND ALL, BUT JESUS REALLY  
DOES HAVE A MUCH BETTER PLAN

## VISIBILITY/ SESSION NOTES

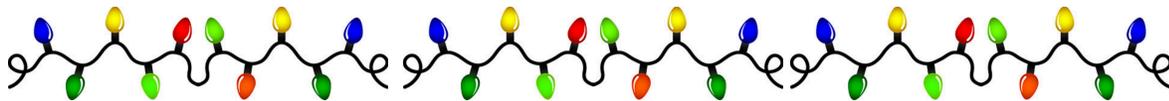
### Session notes from November

- All buildings except the Fellowship Hall were tented and fumigated for termites over the Thanksgiving holiday. Thanks to Mike Manley and his committee for getting everything ready before the “event” and getting it all back in order when the tenting was completed.
- 3D Preschool will continue security patrols through January at their expense.
- Six youths are taking a confirmation class. The classes will be completed December 11 with confirmation during the December 18 worship service.
- Injoh Tanwani is officially on board as Youth Director!

### Visibility

- Our new website is now active! Current sermons and newsletters are included as well as some recent photos. Please explore and send comments to Bill Simmons.
- Our Facebook page now has recent photos. Additional updates are coming soon. Please visit!
- Be sure to post a review of STHPC on Yelp!

*Bill Simmons, Visibility Elder*



## MEMBER UPDATES

### Gil Chesterton

Gil Chesterton received a Lifetime Achievement award from the Journalism Education Association for his 43 years of contributions to high school journalism.

He was one of 10 teachers singled out for the honor at the JEA Convention in Indianapolis this November. The award is given to longtime advisors “for lifetime dedication to journalism education.” However, he was unable to attend because of health problems.

Gil taught journalism at Beverly Hills High School for 33 years. He advised the weekly newspaper, the weekly 30-minute TV newscast (broadcast into the city on the school’s television station) and the high school yearbook.

“It’s wonderful to be honored for doing something that you love,” said Gil.

### Bob and Karla Frye

Nov. 6, 2016

*Good morning everyone,*

*I wanted everyone to know that all is well with Bob and me. We managed to close on our house in Santa Clara and are waiting to close on our home in Creedmoor, North Carolina. Our drive*

out here was beautiful and fun and thankfully we had nothing exciting to report when we arrived on Oct. 29. We have been staying with Rachel and Chad and son Braxton who just turned 1 year old yesterday on Nov. 5. On Friday Nov. 4 we welcomed Brody into the family! He is 7 lbs. 5oz. and 19.5 inches long and looks just like his big brother. Rachel is doing great and should be coming home this afternoon.

Hope all is good with y'all. To be honest we have been too busy to miss California much and the weather here has been great, but I do miss everyone at the church.

God bless you all,  
Karla

### Caryl Brown

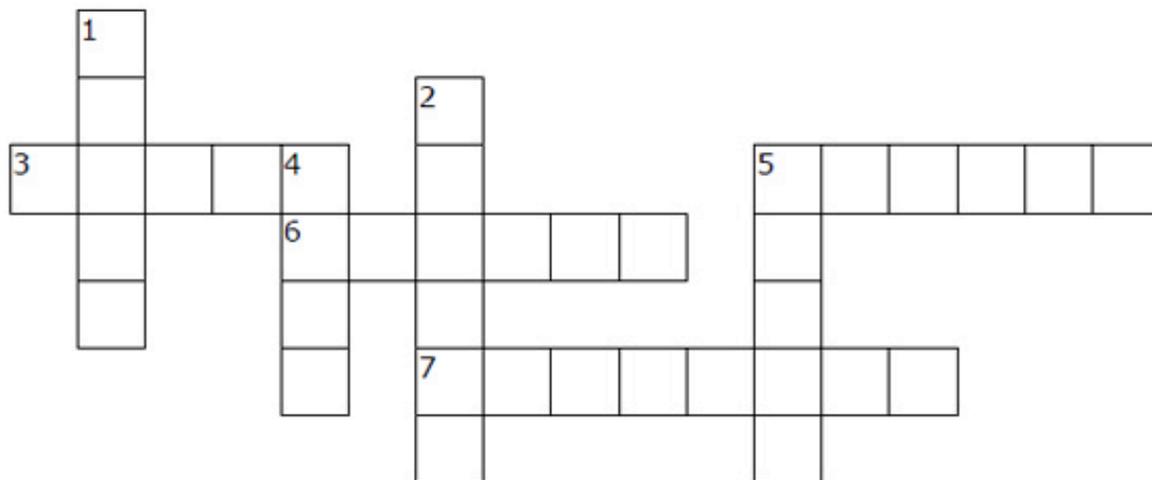
Caryl had hip replacement surgery at O’Connor Hospital on Tuesday, Nov. 29. Surgery went well and she was up and walking with a walker the same day. And today, Friday, Dec. 2 she went home! Her sister and brother-in-law are here from Sparks, NV to support and help her. Cards are appreciated.

# Jesus Is Coming to Town

"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Matthew 1:21 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 1:18-25



## ACROSS

3. Images and emotions that occur while you are sleeping
5. The earthly father of Jesus
6. To be filled with fear
7. A name that means "God is with us"

## DOWN

1. To become husband and wife
2. A young unmarried woman
4. The mother of Jesus
5. The Son of God

AFRAID  
JESUS

MARY  
IMMANUEL

MARRY  
JOSEPH

DREAM  
VIRGIN

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

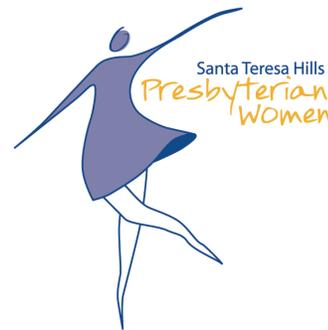
We have now completed three of our PW bible study sessions learning more about "Who is Jesus?". We have looked through the lens of the Gospels of Mark, Matthew and Luke. We have been enjoying the brilliant insights that Judy Yates Siker offers us thru the short video we watch each meeting. One of the other activities we have been working on is defining what it is that Rocks our Purpose. Cheryl Elliot attended the annual Women of Faith conference in early October. She brought back some fun tools to help us Open our Heart and start connecting with others. This will help each of us discover what our gifts are so we can more clearly dream about ways to put them to use.

November kicked off our annual Nuts fundraiser. Many thanks to Paul & Rebecca Elliot, Yvonne Miller and Linda Buckley for packing up over 280 pounds of nuts! We are selling the nuts after worship each Sunday until our supplies run out. They make great gifts so we hope you take advantage and purchase a lot of nuts.

Our December PW meeting will be our annual Christmas Party held at Barb Overholt's house. It will be on Wed December 14 at 7 PM. This is the time that we reveal who our Secret Sisters have been all year. All women are invited to attend whether or not you were in the Secret Sister program. We normally bring a small gift to exchange and we encourage bringing a plate of your favorite cookies (and the recipe if you can.) We then do a cookie exchange so you go home with a plate full of assorted cookies!

The Presbyterian Women's Epiphany Tea will be Sunday, January 8 from 2-4 PM at Stone Church of Willow Glen. The theme this year is 'Seeking the Light'. After enjoying tea and dessert we will help bring in the new year with a Taize worship experience of music, chanting, and readings in Stone Church's beautiful candle-lit sanctuary.

*Cheryl Elliot, Moderator*



**Presbyterian Women**  
present their annual

## Christmas Party and Cookie Exchange

**Wednesday • December 14**  
**7-9:00 p.m.**

All women are encouraged to attend.

Your Secret Sister will be revealed.

Bring your favorite baked cookies  
and the recipe to share.

Women who have not participated in Secret Sisters  
may bring a \$5 gift to exchange (not mandatory).

Refreshments and a festive  
holiday home await you at:

Barb Overholt's  
1686 Morocco Drive • San Jose  
408-264-8318  
BarbKygerOverholt@gmail.com

**Please note: cats live in this home.**

## FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

### Upcoming Activities:

December 18 after worship - caroling  
around the piano with Megan DeJarnett

January 14 - daytime San Jose Barracuda  
ice hockey game

February 5 - Super Bowl party in the  
Fellowship Hall

Other ideas - Comedy Sportz, game night,  
music at a winery

Any ideas? The Fellowship Committee  
would love to hear them - Bill and Sharon  
Simmons, Kate and Mike Manley, Robin  
DeJarnett, Yvonne Miller, DeLynn Coop,  
Horace Hines

*Lynn Hines, Fellowship Elder*

# Helping Hands



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

**Requested items: This month, the Pantry is especially in need of peanut butter, corn, green beans and mac & cheese.** Cans of fruit and cans of vegetables, cans of soup or chili, canned meats, jelly to go with peanut butter, pasta & pasta sauce are also requested by many. Flip-top cans are appreciated by many!

**Monthly summary:** Between October 13 and November 28, 41 people were assisted. 33 people received food and 18 people received bus tokens. Kristie was able to honor requests for 2 gift cards and 2 backpacks. One person received cash.

Food donations totaled 226 lbs. Thank you for donations from STHPC: 131 lbs., St. Julie's: 80 lbs, and Other: 15 lbs.

*The Deacons and the Church & World Committee*

## Nursery Attendants

- 12/4 Alfred Morikang
- 12/11 Nan Brown
- 12/18 Courtney Mays
- 12/25 No Worship service
- 1/1 Ashley Fitzgerald
- 1/8 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

	October 2016 Month to Date	Through 10/16 Year to Date
Income	\$30,328	\$228,378
Expense	\$25,639	\$239,551
Net Income	\$4,689	-\$11,173

Thank you to Edith Sona, Cathy Warrick, and Cheryl Elliot, who brought treats in October and November. Thanks also to all the clean-up helpers!

## Treat Schedule for December/January

12/4 Hines for Pastor Tom's 15th Anniversary Celebration

**ALL OTHER DATES ARE AVAILABLE!**

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



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!



# Reasons to Celebrate!

## Birthdays

- Dec. 7            *Marylyn Goode, Emmanuel Ngwa*
- Dec. 8            *Megan DeJarnett*
- Dec. 9            *Pearl Njinda*
- Dec. 17          *Tim Davis*
- Dec. 19          *Barb Overholt, Chad Cunningham*
- Dec. 23          *Nancy Alvarez*
- Dec. 25          *Jesus*
- Dec. 28          *Sharon Simmons*
- Dec. 30          *Gretchen Webb*
- Dec. 31          *Zoe Webb*

## Anniversaries

### 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](mailto: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: Bill Simmons

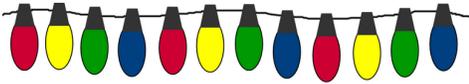


## ACTIVITIES FOR EVERYONE

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



Every Sunday	Two-Can Sunday
Sat, Dec 10	Deacon's Community Christmas Meal 2-4 PM
Sun, Dec 11	10 AM Worship and Children's Christmas Program
Sun, Dec 18	Caroling around the Piano - after worship
Saturday, Dec 24 7:30 & 11:00 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Sunday, Dec. 25	No Worship or Sunday School
Dec 25 - Jan 1	Church Office closed

*Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church,  
The Reverend Tom Coop, Pastor*  
[www.sthpc.org](http://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**

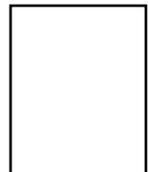
**Church Bulletin deadline: Thursday 9:00 AM**

**Church Historian: Barb Overholt**

**Church Newsletter deadline: December 28  
for January Newsletter**  
**email your information to Lynn Hines at [not57@sbcglobal.net](mailto:not57@sbcglobal.net)**

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

Phone: 408-629-5906



**Christmas Eve  
Candlelight Services  
Saturday, December 24  
7:30 and 11:00 PM**

