

Echoes from the Hills

Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church • San Jose, California



COOP'S CORNER

“Death is Not the End”

Do you ever think about death? I don't very often. However, as a pastor, I can't help but think about it whenever someone dies, which seems to happen with greater frequency lately. The truth is, death is the eventual byproduct of life for all of us. We will all die. Some at the end of a long life and some where it seems that life has been cut short.

Last month the matriarch of our church, Hettie Lou Downing, passed away. I was privileged to be with her the last day of her life. She still recognized me and the sparkle in her eyes was still there. We talked, well, I mostly talked ☺, and I prayed with her. There was no need to reassure her because she had no doubt as to what was in store for her when she moved on.

Then yesterday (as I write this) my brother-in-law, Brent Street, my sister's husband, passed away after a brief bout with cancer. I also had the privilege to be with him just a few days before he died. He was the only one who could get away with calling me “Tommy” and as I came in and as I left he called me just that! Although my sister is an avowed atheist, Brent believed in God, and we had that connection that none of the rest of my family shared with him. I was so glad that I was there and could assure him that soon he would be headed home to be with God and all those who had preceded him in death. I prayed with him and felt God's spirit all around and in us.

When I visited with Hettie Lou's family, there was sadness, but there was also the realization that death was just a way station on the way to eternal life. There was a sense of loss, but also a celebration that Hettie Lou was no longer in pain AND had been reunited, not only with those who preceded her in death, including a husband and three of her four children, but also her Savior, Jesus Christ.

There is a comfort in knowing that this is not all there is. There is a comfort in knowing that when we die our energy doesn't just float back into the universe (as my sister believes). There is a comfort in knowing that there is a loving, compassionate, and merciful God and Savior who is waiting patiently for us to return. It takes away much of the fear out of dying.

I feel a little bit sorry for my sister who understands none of this. She now is alone, and although she is strong and is doing well, she misses out on one of the most important promises of the Gospel message: That Jesus has prepared a room for us ... for all of us (including, I believe, my sister). Boy, will she be surprised when she crosses over ... pleasantly, I hope.

For me ... I miss Hettie Lou and I miss my brother-in-law. But that hole in my heart is tempered by the knowledge that it is for just a little while. The time will come when we will all be reunited and join together to sing and dance and celebrate!

Thank God, God is Good!

And with that, I will see you on Sunday ☺

Pastor Tom



The South Bay CROP Walk will be **Sunday, April 24** in Downtown San Jose. The route is moving back to its original through the Rose Garden area. There will be a one mile and a three mile walk. Walkers will register at Hoover Middle School (at the intersection of Park

Avenue and Naglee) beginning at 12:00 PM and the walk will commence at 1:00 PM. More information will be available at the Activity Table or from Paul or Cheryl Elliot. We hope you can join us on walk day, but if you can't you can support our walkers through donations. Do you know that with only \$50 CWS (Church World Service) can begin a community garden for families with a hoe, shovel and seeds or \$110 can give emergency food supplies for a family of five for one month? It is a great cause, so please consider supporting CWS with your donations (you can donate online via crophungerwalk.org or give Cheryl Elliot your donations via cash/ check payable to CWS/CROP.

Worship and Music *Marylyn Goode • Elder*



Michael Kuo

Please Welcome New Musical Accompanist

Michael Kuo graduated with a B.S. in Music from Pacific Union College and is currently working on his Masters at San Jose State University. He is a gifted pianist and singer and has recently performed with Opera San Jose. We are blessed to have him on our staff. Please make sure to welcome Michael!

Ushers and Worship Leaders, Oh My!

Thanks to our worship leaders in March: *Paul Elliot, Edith Sona and Emmanuel Ngwa*. Rev. Tom Coop was worship leader the Sunday that we hosted a neutral pulpit.

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. Thank you to those who volunteered as ushers for the month of March: *Kim Do and our youth, Chris De La Roca, Gertrud Walker, Beatrice and Bob Toche, Cathy Warrick*.



Heavenly Warblers

Interested in joining the choir? It's a great way to get to know one another! We are friendly and welcoming, and invite you to join us. All current choir members and first-timers, please arrive about 15 minutes early to pick up your music.

Palm Sunday with Rev. Ken Williams



Rev. and Mrs. Ken Williams

We were blessed on Palm Sunday to witness the spiritual gifts of the Rev. Ken Williams when he stepped up to the pulpit in Pastor Tom's absence. Pastor Ken is the minister for United Christian Fellowship of Silicon Valley, one of our nesting churches here at STHPC that worships in our sanctuary on Saturday nights. His lovely wife, Tressa, was on hand to worship with us. Not only is Pastor Ken personable, funny, and spirit-filled but he also owns his own State Farm Insurance agency. We were definitely "in good hands" on Palm Sunday with Pastor Ken.



Seder (Maundy Thursday)



Good Friday • The Seven Last Words of Christ



Easter Sunrise Service

6:00 a.m.



Praise • Worship
Song • Communion
Alleluia! He Is Risen!

Easter!



"He Is Risen! He Is Risen Indeed!"



CHURCH AND WORLD MINISTRY

FAITH IN ACTION

“For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.” **Ephesians 2:10 (NRSV)**

Faith in Action 2016 is in the books!! We participated in three off campus activities, two on campus, a potluck and a worship service.



On Thursday, March 31, the Hines, Simmons, Linda Buckley and Tom Coop brought dinner and joined in a potluck with the residents of

Immanuel House. They got to know the refugee's and hear their stories. Everyone was grateful for the dinner and more than willing to share their stories and thoughts.

On Friday, April 1, Lynn Hines, Linda Buckley and Yvonne Miller provided a soup, salad and sandwich luncheon to the ladies of the Women's Gathering Place at First Presbyterian Church of San Jose. They enjoyed talking with several women and hearing why they come to WGP. Linda even said she would like to volunteer there after she retires in June.

On Saturday, April 2 Mike Manley, David and Yvonne Miller, Cathy Warrick and Vicki O'Hara worked at Santa Maria Urban Ministry (SMUM) pulling weeds and spreading tan bark in their beautiful rose garden. David went back during the

week and planted some geraniums. The HOPE group also raised money to help purchase the bark.



On Sunday, April 3 busy hands packed 101 lunches for Front Door Ministry run by First Presbyterian Church of San Jose. This



ministry hands out about 150 lunches each day. We also donated 5 cases of water, a case of individual fruit cups and many, many packages of cookies!! Thank you to all who donated food for the lunches. Another group wrote letters for Bread for the World. These are letters sent to our Congressional representatives urging them to pass legislation for \$230 million dollars in food aid for women and children.



Sunday evening about 30 people joined together for a potluck before our Faith in Action worship service. All three churches that meet at STHPC participated in the worship service. Someone from each FIA activity summed up their activity. Zoe Walker had a slide presentation of the Youth's blanket making project. Each pastor also gave a short homily. Rev. Ken Williams, the United Christian Fellowship pastor, spoke about action with faith – putting ourselves out there to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Pastor Kim from the Young Nak Korean congregation showed slides and told of their weekly Thursday morning ministry to the homeless at St. James Park in downtown San Jose. Pastor Tom spoke about the importance of acting out our faith by helping others. It was a very inspiring service.

FOOD 4OTHERS

Our next activity is the Mobile Food Pack organized by Church of God of San Jose for Feed My Starving Children. This is on Sunday, April 24th from 1 - 3 PM at the San Jose Elks Club on Alma.

Yvonne Miller, Church & World Ministry Elder

CHILDREN'S ED MINISTRY

Sunday School lessons for April will look at The Ten Commandments and learn about other God's great gifts to us.

Many thanks to the kids who participated in our Palm Sunday services, we were few, but mighty! Also blessings to the Youth who helped stuff over 200 Easter Eggs. We had lots of kids who enjoyed the Easter Egg hunt after Easter Worship Service. I saw lots of happy children (sorry parents for sending them home with all that candy!!!)



On Faith in Action Sunday, Debbie Serasio, Lynn Hines, Cheryl Elliot plus Brady Reynolds and Teke and Miyah Ngwa helped do our annual Spring Cleaning of the Sunday School Supplies Closet. We were able to reorganize most of the closet, and hopefully now teachers you will be able to find your needed supplies more efficiently. We are looking for a few more Sunday School helpers and/or nursery helpers to fill the spots of some people who are not able to continue. If you are interested in assisting with this very special ministry, please contact Cheryl Elliot.

Vacation Bible School planning is starting up. I have met with Lisa Wagner at Oak Grove Baptist Church. We have chosen Group's CAVE QUEST as our VBS program this year. VBS will be held July 18-22 from 9 AM – 12:30 PM. We will have a VBS Kickoff meeting on Sunday, May 22 at 1 PM at Oak Grove Baptist Church. We are looking for volunteers to help during VBS as well as behind the scenes prior to VBS. If you are interested, please contact Cheryl Elliot. We will have our Volunteer training on Saturday, June 18 from 10 AM - noon. Also, kids 3 years old thru 6th graders - start to think about attending our fun filled VBS week. Signup/Registration sheets will be available in early May.

Sunday School Teachers & Helpers:

Date	SS Teacher	SS Helper	SS Helper
4/17	Gertrud Walker	Claris Ngwa	Debbie Serasio
4/24	Debbie Serasio	Mindy Gerber	Emmanuel Ngwa
5/1	DeLynn Coop	Lynn Hines	Sharon Simmons
5/8	Marilyn Morikang	Yolanda Wu	Debbie Serasio
5/15	Debbie Serasio	Claris Ngwa	Libby Souter
5/22	Gertrud Walker	Mindy Gerber	Emmanuel Ngwa
5/29	Marilyn Morikang	Yolanda Wu	Debbie Serasio
6/5	DeLynn Coop	Lynn Hines	Sharon Simmons
6/12	Debbie Serasio	Claris Ngwa	Libby Souter

Cheryl Elliot, Children's Ed Ministry Elder

ADULT ED MINISTRY

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

The Sunday morning Bible study meets before church at 9:00 AM in the Multi-Purpose room. We are reading and discussing the Upper Room readings and related scriptures. Join us for a time of reflection and discussion.

Carol Miller, Adult Ed Ministry Elder

YOUTH MINISTRY



Also participating in Faith in Action were the Youth. On Friday evening, April 1, the Youth and several adults made blankets for both people and animals.

They made 8 blankets for the Project Linus Foundation of Silicon Valley. Their mission is to provide love, a sense of security, warmth and comfort to children who are seriously ill, traumatized, or otherwise in need. This is done through the gifts of new, handmade, washable blankets lovingly created by volunteer blanket makers or 'blanketeers'.

They also made 6 double blankets for Inn Vision, a homeless shelter, or people on the streets and 15 blankets for the Nike Animal Rescue Foundation. NARF, an all volunteer organization, is dedicated to protecting the dogs and cats in our community. Their volunteers rescue and shelter cats and dogs in need and provide medical care while waiting to find their forever homes.

They still have material for 7 more blankets and will continue to make donation blankets. Thanks to all the Youth and adults who participated and to those who donated materials.

Kate Manley, Youth Ministry Elder

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Presbyterian Women completed Lesson 6, "Waters of Justice and Righteousness", and Lesson 7, "Streams of Mercy-Forgiveness" from the "Come to the Waters" Bible study at our Saturday, March 19 meeting. Cathy Warrick provided us with some delicious snacks (thanks Cathy!)

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, April 16 from 10 AM - noon in the Fellowship Hall. We are hosting a special event - a baby Shower for Rebecca Elliot (currently our head usher). Rebecca is due May 19th with her first child, a girl. Thanks to all the PW regulars for helping out with this event.

The May PW meeting will be on TUESDAY, May 17 from 7:30 PM - 9 PM in the Multi-Purpose Room. We will continue our Bible study with Lesson 8 "The Hospitality of Living Water-Compassion". Our June meeting will be on Tuesday, June 21 at 7 PM. Our plan is to do a potluck and have our annual 'birthday' party that night (you are encouraged to bring a small gift to exchange). We will also finish up our last session of the Bible Study, Lesson 9 "River of Life-Hope". Anyone can join in at anytime for the Bible study as each is a separate subject.

PW would like to take time to acknowledge one of our faithful members who passed away in March. Hettie Lou Downing was a faithful servant of Jesus and we miss her dearly. She wowed us often with her ability to recite poems, many that she had written herself, her great insights in our discussions, and her caring and loving nature. Hettie Lou, you are with the Lord now and I'm sure you are having a great time telling your stories up in Heaven.

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 March 4 and April 1, 21 people were assisted; 17 people received food and 10 people received bus tokens. Kristie was able to honor requests for 1 gift card. One person received cash.

Food donations totaled 557 lbs. Thank you for donations from a friend of the church: 375 lbs., STHPC: 120 lbs., St Julie's: 42 lbs., and Other: 20 lbs.

The Deacons and the Church & World Committee



Thanks to Jane & Jerry McMinn, Cathy Warrick, Mindy Gerber and the Deacons for treats in March. And special thanks to those who helped clean up!

All dates are open for April and May!

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

Nursery Attendants



- 4/17 Alfred Morikang
- 4/24 Nan Brown
- 5/1 Rebecca Elliot
- 5/8 Ashley Fitzgerald
- 5/15 Alfred Morikang
- 5/22 Nan Brown
- 5/29 Courtney Mays
- 6/5 Ashley Fitzgerald
- 6/12 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.

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

	March 2016 Month to Date	Through 3/16 Year to Date
Income	\$23,357	\$68,433
Expense	\$22,968	\$66,025
Net Income	\$389	\$2,408

VISIBILITY MINISTRY

MARCH SESSION NOTES

- We had a successful Stewardship campaign during February. Pledges received are \$182,500. 17 pledging units increased their pledges.
- 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.
- Session completed the personnel reviews for Pastor Tom and the Staff

Debbie Serasio, Visibility Ministry Elder



Reasons to Celebrate!

Birthdays

- April 5 James Mays
- April 6 Gina Cunningham
- April 8 Ron Shelton
- April 13 Laura Needham
- April 14 Keith Johnson
- April 18 Howard LeBas
- April 25 Dottie Simmerly
- April 28 Yvonne Miller, Nancy Girton
- May 3 Karin McMinn
- May 10 Ross Souter
- May 11 Lucas Mudoh, Mike Overholt
- May 12 Paris Elizabeth Acha
- May 17 Steve Sunseri
- May 23 Susan Hunt-McArthur
- May 24 Billy Sunseri
- May 27 Libby Souter
- May 29 Eric DeJarnett

Anniversaries

- April 7 Claire and David McFeely
- April 10 Cynthia and John Greene
- April 19 Nancy and Gil Chesterton

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

Sat., April 16 3:00 PM	Memorial Service for Hettie Lou Downing
Sun., Apr. 24	Food 4 Others (see page 7)
Sun., Apr. 24	CROP Walk (see page 2)
Saturdays May 7, 14 & 21	Music in the Parks (see Robin DeJarnett for information)
Sat., June 4 5 - 8 PM	Pastor Tom's 65th birthday bash - BBQ & party for the whole family. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for details!

*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: June 1
for June 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

