

Echoes from the Hills

Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church • San Jose, California



COOP'S CORNER

Doing Our Civic Duty

This Fall we are preparing to go to the polls. Some of you may have already submitted your ballot by mail. Some of you have read all the relevant material and are informed and ready to cast your ballot on November 8th. And some of you may have decided not to vote because you are either too disillusioned with who's running or don't feel like your vote will make a difference.

I hope to speak to those who have decided not to vote or are not yet prepared to vote. We all know that voting is our civic duty. But, did you know that it is also our moral, ethical, and spiritual obligation to stand up and speak out (by going to the polls) for what is right?

Who we elect as our next president, senator, congressperson, and representative and how we vote on many of the propositions on the ballot this year can and will have an effect on how we care for the disadvantaged, feed the poor, house the homeless, bring justice to those who often are unable to speak for themselves.

If we shrug this responsibility, we are saying that those things do not matter. And, believe me, they do matter. They matter very much. Just ask Jesus. He cares and so should we.

So, let me address the thought that "my vote doesn't matter." It is a sad fact that less than 50% of California's registered voters cast ballots in any general election. And even less cast votes for ballot propositions. Your vote might just make all the difference.

Did you know that:

- In 1845, just two votes brought Texas into the Union.
- In 1868, Andrew Johnson was impeached; one vote saved him from removal.
- In 1920, women won the right to vote by passage of the 19th amendment to the Constitution. Tennessee, the last state needed to pass the amendment, ratified the amendment by one vote.
- In 1960, John F. Kennedy's margin of victory over Richard Nixon was less than one vote per precinct.
- In 1962, the governors of Maine, Rhode Island, and North Dakota were all elected by a margin of one vote per precinct.

Your vote matters. Do you care about our schools? How we try juveniles in our courts? Whether or not we should allow Capital Punishment? How about the ease of obtaining guns and ammunition in our state? Do we legalize marijuana?

I am not going to tell you how to vote on these issues, but I do believe it is our obligation to become informed and vote accordingly.

But, with all the false advertising going on (I'm sure your mailbox has been inundated with flyers containing claims by one group or another – much of which is misleading and some downright lies!) how do we know what to believe?

Let me suggest a couple of things that might be helpful. First, determine who is underwriting the cost of the candidate's campaign or the ballot proposition. If it is a tobacco company – might they have a vested interest in the outcome? Carefully check who's writing the checks.

Second, who is endorsing the candidate or proposition? What newspapers endorse the candidate or proposition? What politicians that you respect are behind them or it? And what do organizations like the *League of Women Voters* or the *California Council of Churches Impact* or other organizations that share your values recommend?

And finally, what does your conscience tell you? Have you prayed about it? Have you done your research and done your own critical thinking? Have you dismissed the lies that are out there and searched out the truth?

Voting is a privilege and a right and a responsibility. Go to the polls on Tuesday, November 8th. Go informed and go and make a difference!

Be blessed, my friends and I'll see you on Sunday!!!

Pastor Tom

CHURCH AND WORLD MINISTRY

Food 4Others

"Table 8 is changing fate!", was the cheer from the 9 intrepid, hair-netted STHPCers who packed boxes of food to be sent overseas by Feed My Starving Children. The group of volunteers from churches and schools packed 169 boxes with 36 bags of food each. Each bag contains 6 meals. That totals 36,504 meals packed in under 2 hours! Our STHPC group's table packed 4,536 of the meals! Thanks to those of you who participated, I know you had fun while doing good.



Magazines, Magazines, Magazines

Calling all magazines! How many of you wonder what to do with your old magazines! Jerry McMinn would like to take our old magazines (please remove your address labels and do not donate any magazines that you have written in) to the Santa Clara County correctional facilities. Please bring yours to church and put them in the box marked "Magazine Donations." What an easy way to make a difference in someone's life!

Santa Maria Urban Ministry - SMUM

Fall means serving several hundred extra families and twice as many food donations. So more help is needed in the Food Pantry. They need extra hands to sort, weigh and organize donated food. Helpers will make boxes and unload donations. Grab a friend or two and make Harvest Helping a rewarding, meaningful time this fall. You can sign up for a shift at: [Harvest Helper Shifts!](#) or go to their website, or Facebook page to sign up. Any questions, email Alfonso at 19smum83@gmail.com.

Coming Soon - Alternative Christmas!!

Linda Buckley, Church & World Elder

WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY

Worship Leaders for September: Thank you to our liturgists *Barb Overholt, Emmanuel Ngwa, Paul Elliot and Dave Robertson*. Please contact Dave Robertson if you're interested in being a Liturgist .

Ushers: Thanks to our volunteer ushers during September – *Rebecca Elliot, Jerry and Jane McMinn, Chris De La Roca, Bill Simmons, Gina Cunningham, and Horace Hines*. Our 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.

...And Thank You To Pastor Tom For Our Heroes: Our summer series on “Heroes of the Christian Faith” concluded on Homecoming Sunday. From Constantine to St. Francis, from Calvin to CS Lewis to Bonhoeffer to Pope Francis, we learned a whole lot of what shapes our faith and our understanding of God, and how Christians through the centuries have risen to the challenge of bringing love and light into the world. Who was your favorite figure, and why? If you email me or tell me, I'll publish your faves in the next newsletter.

The Choir Is Back: Our fantastic choir under the direction of Joe Taff started up the Fall season on

Homecoming Sunday. As you can see we have some empty choir seats. Please see Joe if you're interested in joining or just sitting in on a rehearsal to see what it's like. Rehearsals are Thursdays at 7:30 PM.

Communion Schedule: November 6.

Rev. Geoff Browning on Peacemaking Sunday
Rev. Browning preached on “Should We be a Peace Church?” on Sunday, October 9. Paul Elliot and Horace Hines helped Rev. Browning demonstrate the early meaning of “turn the other cheek”.



Dave Robertson, Worship & Music Elder

VISIBILITY/ SESSION NOTES

Session notes, September and October:

•Repair of the external wall in the Multipurpose room is complete. Some internal finishing is still required.

- All buildings except the Fellowship Hall will be tented/fumigated for termites over the Thanksgiving holiday.
- We have adopted a revised Mission Statement - “The mission of Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church, an inclusive community, is to nurture members and friends to be faithful disciples of Christ, and to use their gifts and talents to share the good news of Christ’s love in serving the needs of the church and community. Come join us as we aspire to be a light to one another on our faith journeys.”
- We have had problems with homeless people sleeping on our property, leaving garbage, and now breaking into the Sunday School rooms and the Fellowship Hall and stealing from the preschool. The Session authorized Buildings and Grounds to hire security to patrol the premises during the night and increase security lighting.

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 next target is to update our Facebook page.
- Be sure to post a review of STHPC on Yelp!

Bill Simmons, Visibility Elder

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Sunday School is in full swing and we are continuing our unit on 'Great is God's Faithfulness'. We are still looking for someone interested in doing a 'lead' teacher position so, if you're interested, please see Cheryl Elliot. Lesson plans are provided and it's quite a simple task and only once a month.

Cheryl Elliot, Children's Ed Elder

Sunday School Teachers and Helpers:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lead Teacher</u>	<u>SS Helper</u>
October 16	Marilyn Morikang	Yolanda Wu
October 23	DeLynn Coop	Emmanuel Ngwa
October 30	Cheryl Elliot	Claris Ngwa
November 6	Gertrud Walker	TBD
November 13	Marilyn Morikang	Yolanda Wu
November 20	DeLynn Coop	Emmanuel Ngwa
November 27	Lynn Hines	Claris Ngwa

YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Confirmation Classes

We are excited to announce that big things are happening in our youth ministries. We will be starting confirmation classes for the youth. There will be 6 classes each one held following the Sunday service. They begin October 16, and run for 6 sessions - October 23 and 30, November 6 and 20, and December 4. We will not be holding classes on November 13 or 27. Also a make up class will be offered December 11. Please remember there will be a \$20.00 fee for workbook materials.

The classes are based on **re:form Traditions** which gives youth the tools they need to deeply explore their particular faith tradition with witty videos, engaging individual and group activities, and an online forum for sharing what they've learned along the way.

Youth Director

We are EXCITED welcome our new Youth Director, Injoh Tanwani. Injoh has been a member of our church for several years; she is very excited to join our team as Youth Director. She currently attends CSU East Bay and is a Computer Science major. Please join us in welcoming Injoh to our team.



Coming soon: Youth service, community service event and an interview with Injoh.

Kate Manley, Youth Elder

ADULT ED MINISTRY

Beginning in October there will be a Bible Study insert in the Sunday bulletin for members and friends to use during the week. There will also be special Bible studies offered on specific topics throughout the year.

Continue to watch the church bulletin for details.

Presbyterian Women is doing a year-long study on Jesus. Check out the PW article on page 5 for more information. There is also the Men's Breakfast Bible study on the second Saturday morning of every month.

Feel free to use the lectionary scriptures from the Presbyterian website <http://www.pcusa.org/>. Anytime is a good time to read and study God's word.

Join us to share and grow in your faith.

Carol Miller, Adult Education Elder

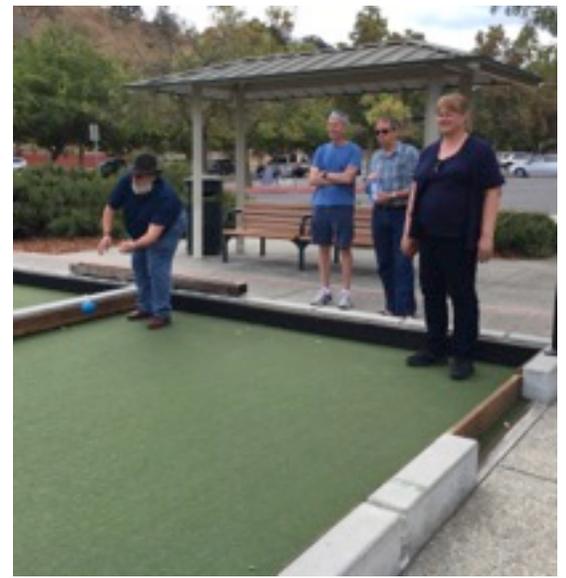
FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

Bocce and Picnic

Have you ever played bocce ball? Well, you could have! Ten fun loving STHPCers spent a beautiful fall afternoon at Almaden Lake Park enjoying a picnic lunch and several bocce ball games. And no geese bothered us! We finished just as a rain shower dumped on us. A good time was had by all!

New Event! 'Shop, Click, Give'

Our next event is a new one. 'Shop, Click, Give' on Saturday, November 19 from 7 - 8:30 PM. It's a shared group shop-o-rama experience and a fundraiser (thru Smile.Amazon) for the church at the same time. All you need to bring are some (Christmas) cookies and gift ideas to share and your electronic shopping device (laptop, iPad, phone, etc.). There will also be activities for those too young to shop. Put Saturday, November 19 on your calendar. Watch for more information in the Sunday bulletins and on the bulletin board – see you there!



Future Activities

Activity ideas for 2017 include a San Jose Barracudas ice hockey game in January, a Super Bowl party, a movie night, an outing to Comedy Sportz and music at a winery. Please talk to one of the Fellowship Committee members and let us know if you have any additional ideas.



Shop - Click - Give



Lynn Hines, Fellowship Elder

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Our next Presbyterian Women meetings are scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 15 at 10 AM and Tuesday, Nov. 15 at 7:30 PM. Mark your calendars now! We got started on our new Presbytery Women's bible study, "Who is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes" at our September meeting.

Our annual NUTS sale is coming up in November. The 'gobs 'o fun' Nuts Packing event is scheduled for November 5 from 10 AM - noon at Cheryl Elliot's house. Look for the sign-up sheet at the Activity Table and sign up to volunteer. All church members are welcomed to join in on the nutty fun!

Cheryl Elliot, Moderator



Helping Hands



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

Current needs of the Pantry are peanut butter, disposable razors, and toothbrushes and toothpaste.

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 September 6 and October 12, 28 people were assisted; 19 people received food and 11 people received bus tokens. Kristie was able to honor requests for 4 gift cards.

Food donations totaled **only 111 lbs.** Thank you for donations from STHPC: 78 lbs., St. Julie's: 10 lbs., and Other: 23 lbs.

The Deacons and the Church & World Committee

Nursery Attendants



10/16 Courtney Mays
10/23 Ashley Fitzgerald
10/30 Alfred Morikang
11/6 Rebecca Elliot
11/13 Nan Brown
11/20 Courtney Mays
11/27 Ashley Fitzgerald

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

	Sept 2016 Month to Date	Through 9/16 Year to Date
Income	\$22,153	\$198,030
Expense	\$24,191	\$209,794
Net Income	-\$2,038	-\$11,764

Thank you to the Simmons, the Manleys, Annie Sunseri, Libby Souter, Cheryl Elliot, and the Hines (for Glenda Nolt's 80th birthday, who brought treats in August/September/October. Thanks also to all the clean-up helpers!

Treat Schedule for October/November

10/16 Edith Sona 10/23 Open
10/30 Open 11/6 Open
11/13 Open 11/20 Elliotts for Thanksgiving
11/27 Open



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

Oct. 22	Scott Calzia
Oct. 23	Debbie Wallace
Oct. 27	Peter Pfeil
Nov. 2	Lynn Hines
Nov. 3	Aiden Morikang
Nov. 10	Owen Paterson
Nov. 11	James McArthur
Nov. 13	Rachel Guerrero
Nov. 14	Leonie Toche
Nov. 16	Joshua Lewallen
Nov. 30	David Young

Anniversaries

Oct. 18	Courtney and Chris Mays
Oct. 23	Barb and Michael Overholt
Nov. 3	Alec & Mary Paterson
Nov. 20	Debbie & Woody Wallace

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: 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
bring canned food
for our Pantry

Tues., Nov. 8

Election - remember
to vote!

*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: November 20
for April Newsletter**

email your information to Lynn Hines at not57@sbcglobal.net

Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church
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San Jose, CA 95123

Phone: 408-629-5906



**Election Day
Tuesday, November 8**

