

# Echoes from the Hills

Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church • San Jose, California



## COOP'S CORNER

### “FIVE Makes All the Difference!”

As I sit and write my Coop's Corner column for January 2017, I am deeply grateful for the amazing generosity of this congregation. You give of your time. You give of your resources. And you give of your talents.

Because of your generosity this past Christmas, DeLynn and I received an incredibly lavish array of gift cards. Please know that we are extremely grateful. We look forward to being able to enjoy them and will remember you as we do. You all are THE BEST!!!

As we look forward to what is in store for 2017, we must acknowledge that at the end of 2016, we spent more than we brought in. Your session is working hard at turning that around.

The stark truth though is that with the loss of couples who have retired and moved away and with the deaths of some of our most devoted members, we need to be more active in praying for, inviting, and encouraging new people to attend here.

We have a great deal to offer. For one, we present the gospel in a way that hopefully is inclusive (in an increasingly exclusive world), affirming, loving, and grace-filled.

We are small, but that means we get to know one another well and look out for one another. We are family. We are nice people who are positive, friendly, and faithful.

We are a congregation that loves God, loves Jesus and lives that out in not only what we proclaim, but also what we do.

And we have a pastor who is absolutely 100% committed to you all and to God, and isn't too bad a preacher to boot!

Why wouldn't you want to be a part of that? We are not here to judge or to condemn or to exclude. We'll leave that to the other guys.

I hope that in 2017 we can help to NOT keep Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church a secret. Sharing your faith and your church is not only good for us, but it is good for your friends, neighbors, co-workers, etc.

If we could all just invite five people this year to worship with us, I promise we will make you proud: just five people.

I am so thankful to be a part of what we do here. I am grateful to be a part of a worshiping community that lives out what it means to “Love God and love your neighbor.”

Have a marvelous 2017. And remember – we are here for you not just Sundays at 10:00 AM. – but the rest of the week as well!

God bless each and every one of you.

## Pastor Tom

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### CHURCH AND WORLD MINISTRY

#### **Alternative Christmas:**

Thanks to all who gave generously to our three Alternative Christmas Projects. You gave money to Immanuel House, which helps refugees transition into long term housing, to replace the WATER TANK at the Christadelphian Center for the Blind and Handicapped in Mbengwi, Cameroon, and to the STHPC youth group-sponsored campaign to fund a well in a developing country through PCUSA Giving. Thanks to Kate and Injoh for your leadership with the Youth. Giving amounts will be reported next month.

#### **Joy Offering:**

Church and World Ministry Team thanks you for your financial support of the Christmas Joy offering which is divided: 50% to PCUSA Racial Ethnic secondary schools/colleges and 50% to help retired church staff with urgent unexpected needs. This offering does not include any portion for local organizations, but I received some feedback from one church member who gives to a Native American/Indian cause-thanks!

#### **Unseen volunteers:**

Did you know we have many volunteers amongst us, quietly doing their thing at: Immanuel House, Women's Gathering Place, Second Harvest, Santa Maria Urban Ministry (packing food boxes, tutoring and now reception check in), Santa Clara County Correctional Facilities, Road to Emmaus, St Julie's Food Pantry, and our own Office Manager helping out the homeless or marginally housed. Let us know who and what we've missed.

#### **STHPC Mission Faire to be re-instituted:**

Some years back, our ministry team hosted a large number of mission partners and other organizations. This will likely be held in early May, so watch for the publicity. This may help you in

choosing what kind of **Faith in Action** or hands-on Mission Activity you may want to participate in.

#### **Mission Across the Presbytery:**

Linda attended a luncheon with other mission chairs from congregations within the San Jose Presbytery, and gleaned ideas on how to create more enthusiasm in Faith in Action and even partner with other churches like Evergreen or Foothill towards joint projects. She also learned of a website called Charity Navigator that would allow us to rate organizations along different criteria including how much of our contribution goes towards client services versus administrative overhead and is the program truly producing results?

#### **HOPE group continues generosity:**

The empty nesters demonstrated their generosity again, by donating \$220 to Santa Maria Urban Ministry and \$220 to Feed the Starving Children (or mobile food packs). Both recipients wrote formal thank you notes expressing their gratitude.

#### **Building Tithe:**

Given the tight church budget situation, Session approved more time to donate the remainder of the Building Tithe to worthy causes. Session approved two more years to donate the last approximately \$4,000. This comprises our church and world budget over the next two years.

*Linda Buckley, Elder Church and World Ministry Team*



# Advent 2016

Worship and Music • Dave Robertson • Elder

## Advent Candle Lighters



*November 27 • The Ngwa Family*



*December 3 • Dave Robertson and Carol Mello*



*December 18 • The Paterson Family*



*December 11 • The Elliot Family*



*Christmas Eve Service, 7:30 p.m. • The Davis Family*





## Advent 2016 • December 11



*Pastor Tom's sermon "The Very First Christmas Carol" was interspersed with individual vocals and readings from our choir.*



*Our children's play, "An Angel's View," written by our own Carol Miller was prepared and presented by Elder Cheryl Elliot (left) and masterfully performed by our children:*

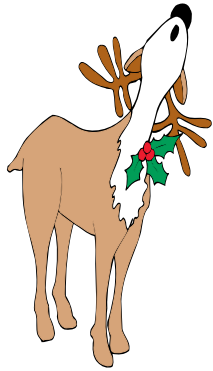
***Standing l-r:***

*Miyah Ngwa, Rogan and Rhona Souter,  
Zoe Walker, Teke Ngwa, Lucius Cuevas*

***Sitting l-r:***

*Aiden Morikang, Cynthia Cuevas, Alma Morikang*





## Advent 2016

### Worship and Music • December 18

#### Welcome Our Newest Members!

On Sunday, December 18 six of our youth were presented with a Certificate of Membership at which time they each stepped up to the podium and gave their individual Statement of Faith.



#### **Our Newest Members L-R:**

*Rhona and Rogan Souter, Zoë Walker, Teke Ngwa, Owen and Mason Paterson*



*Our Staff was presented with year-end bonuses for their dedication and commitment to excellence to our church family. **From L-R:** Libby Souter (Finance), Kristie Reed (Church Administrator), Rev. Tom Coop, Lilia Sanchez (Janitorial), Rachele Morin-Ponce (Nursery Supervisor), Joe Taff (Choir Director), Tiffany Shi (Musical Accompanist), Injoh Tanwani (Youth Director).*



*College student, Megan DeJarnett, was home for the holidays and delighted us by accompanying us for Carols Around the Piano. Thank you Megan!*







# Advent 2016

## Worship and Music • Christmas Eve, 7:30 p.m.



*Soloists Dave Robertson and Cathy Williams offered their talent for our Introit and Offertory.*

### Thank You Worship Leaders and Ushers!

Thank you to: Cheryl Elliot, Cathy Williams, Dave Robertson, DeLynn Coop, Steve DeJarnett and Marylyn Goode. Please contact Dave Robertson if you're interested in being a worship leader.

**Ushers:** Thanks to our volunteer ushers during December! 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 court yard every Sunday after worship.

**Special Thanks to Our Advent Music-Makers:** Choir Director Joe Taff for our music program, the Choir of course, our Accompanist Tiffany Shi, and Megan DeJarnett who played for Carols Around the Piano, thank you for your time and devotion!



*Difficult at best in capturing the candle light but it was still magical singing "O Holy Night" in the crisp evening air.*



### Frosty, Jingle Bells, Rudolph, Santa? Yes, It Was Advent

The Hope of Frosty, the Joy and Love of jingling bells and between Mary and Elizabeth, the outcasts and misfits of Rudolph and the Shepherds, and the original charity and gift-giving of the original St. Nicolaus – all centered around a humble birth. Who would have thunk it? Having received the greatest gift of all, please don't let your gift-giving spirit end with the holidays: Jesus would say that's our full-time job.

**Upcoming Communion Schedule:** January 8

## CHILDREN'S ED MINISTRY

The Sunday School children and Youth group did a great job presenting Carol Miller's original play called 'An Angel's View' on December 11. (See page 4 for a photo.) In January, the Sunday School curriculum will be lessons secured through Sermon4Kids.com that will follow close to the lectionary. We hope this will be great for parents as what they hear in the Worship service will be similar to what their kids learned. We hope this will inspire some great dinner table discussions!

### Sunday School Teachers & Helpers:

Date	SS Teacher	SS Helper
1/8	Cheryl Elliot	Clariss Ngwa
1/15	Gertrud Walker	Sharon Simmons
1/22	Marilyn Morikang	Yolanda Wu
1/29	Gertrud Walker	Emmanuel Ngwa
2/5	Lynn Hines	Clariss Ngwa
2/12	DeLynn Coop	Sharon Simmons

*Cheryl Elliot, Children's Ed Ministry Elder*

## ADULT ED MINISTRY

The Sunday morning bulletin Bible Study continues into the new year. Then after January we will be looking at love and finding how it rules our lives (or not). What does God ask of us? God calls us to make connections which give our lives new meaning and draws us closer to Him. As the Lord lead us into the new year, let us respond in love. Look into the Bible and let the scriptures that help you discover yourself with God's help.

*Carol Miller, Adult Ed Ministry Elder*

### 2017 To Do List

\_\_\_\_\_ the ways we praise the Lord.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ a difference in someone's day.  
 \_\_\_\_\_ to the voice of the Lord?

Trust the Lord. Let the Lord be your \_\_\_\_\_  
 and your rock.

"Shout with joy to God, all the Earth." Psalm 66:1

Use these words to complete the phrases above.

light list listen make

## YOUTH MINISTRY

The youth group completed confirmation classes in December. STHPC was pleased to welcome Teke Ngwa, Mason and Owen Patterson, Rhona and Rogan Souter and Zoe Walker as our newest members. See the photo on page 5.

We would also like to say thank you for all of your support on the alternative giving campaign. We are well on our way to achieving our goal.

*Kate Manley, Youth Elder*

## FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

Upcoming Activities – mark your calendars now!

**Super Bowl Party! Sunday, February 5** in the Fellowship Hall beginning at 2:30. Please bring finger food to share, beverages provided. This year our plan is to bring the couches from around the church to the Fellowship Hall to provide more comfortable seating. Come for fun, friendship, and food.

**Oscar Party – Sunday, February 26** at the Simmons home 4:30 – 9 PM. Please bring a finger food to share. More fun, friendship and food.

**Comedy Sportz – Saturday, April 8.** Dinner at Pizza My Heart at 5:30, Comedy Sportz begins at 7 PM. Fun for the whole family!

The Fellowship Team is preparing a survey for the congregation to help determine activities of interest that will help people get to know each other better. Watch for yours by email in February.

*Lynn Hines, Fellowship Elder*

• Thanks to all the people  
 • who brought snacks  
 • and helped clean up in  
 • December. Our church  
 • wouldn't be the same  
 • friendly, welcoming  
 • place without you!



• Treat Schedule for January - all dates  
 • are available. Sign up at the Activity  
 • Table.



# Community Christmas Dinner







**Presbyterian Women**  
present their annual

**Christmas Party and  
Cookie Exchange**  
**Wednesday • December 14**



**L-R:**

*Rebecca and Arabella Elliot, Barb Overholt, Cheryl Elliot  
Glenda Nolt, Carol Miller*

A few women of our church were able to gather at Barb Overholt's home for an evening of fellowship, revealing who our secret sisters were, and a cookie exchange. Festive music, lively conversation, and curious kitties were enjoyed by all.

If you would like to participate in our year-long Secret Sisters program, please contact Cheryl Elliot to receive a form.

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

We had a small but lovely gathering for our annual PW Christmas party at Barb Overholt's house on December 14. We revealed our Secret Sisters,



had some pumpkin pie, and took home lots of yummy cookies from our cookie exchange. Barb brought up 'The Grateful Garment Project' and we discussed providing some funding. This organization helps provide dignity to victims of sexual violence by providing clothing and other items when they are released from the hospital, since they usually are sent home with just their disposable hospital gown. We voted to donate \$150 to 'The Grateful Garment Project.'

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

Our next STHPC PW meeting will be on Saturday, January 21 from 10 AM - noon. We will be doing lesson #4 of our PW study, 'Who is Jesus', and we will be exploring through the lens of the Gospel of John.

Thanks to all of you who purchased nuts from our PW fundraiser. We have several pounds left (pistachios, mixed nuts, and variety of almonds), so if you missed out, or need some restocking after the holidays, please check out our inventory available after church in the Courtyard.

*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 November 29 and December 23 - 23 people were assisted; 13 people received food and 11 people received bus tokens. Kristie was able to honor requests for 3 gift cards and 1 backpack.

Food donations totaled 601 lbs. We are SO grateful to a friend of the church who gave 470 lbs of food! Thank you for donations from STHPC: 26 lbs., St. Julie's: 85 lbs., and Other: 20 lbs.

*The Deacons  
and the Church & World Committee*

## Nursery Attendants

1/10 Courtney Mays  
1/17 Ashley Fitzgerald  
1/24 Alfred Morikang  
1/31 Nan Brown  
2/7 Courtney Mays



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

	Nov 2016 Month to Date	Through 11/16 Year to Date
Income	\$18,710	\$247,097
Expense	\$24,789	\$264,365
Net Income	-\$6,079	-\$17,268

## VISIBILITY/ SESSION NOTES

Session notes from December

- 1). Annual Congregational Meeting set for March 19, 2017 immediately after worship
- 2). Phone system upgrade was approved including modern internet capabilities
- 3). Committees submitted budgets for 2017
- 4). Bonuses for all paid personnel agreed upon with no salary increases due to operational losses
- 5). Six youth completed confirmation class and were accepted into membership

Visibility Update

- 1). Youth banner ordered
- 2). Christmas Eve Sermon video and with "O Holy Night" solo video have been added to the website. Check it out!

*Bill Simmons, Visibility Ministry Elder*





## Reasons to Celebrate!

### Birthdays

January 1	Monica Haney, Mona Johnson
January 4	Epie Sona
January 5	Mary Jane Judge, Lesley Toche
January 6	DeLynn Coop
January 10	Tonge Sona
January 17	Emily Manley
January 19	Laura Davis
January 21	Jeanie Shelton, Jerry Miller
January 22	Charles Alvarez
January 26	Edward Koborssy
January 27	Iris Fox
January 31	Jerry McMinn

### Anniversaries

January 19	Ruth and Howard LeBas
January 22	Monica and David Haney
January 26	Carol and Jerry Miller

### 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:	Brunch at Aqui Restaurant (Blossom Hill & Snell) following worship (around 11:30ish)

## Upcoming Events

- Sun. Feb. 5  
2:30 PM - ??  
Super Bowl Party  
in the Fellowship  
Hall.(see pg 7 for  
more info) Bring your  
friends also!
- Sun. March 12  
Daylight Savings  
Time Begins
- Sun. March 19  
after worship  
Annual  
Congregational  
Meeting

*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: February 7  
for Feb/March Newsletter**

**email your information to Lynn Hines at [not57@sbcglobal.net](mailto:not57@sbcglobal.net)**

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