

Echoes from the Hills

Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church • San Jose, California



COOP'S CORNER

The Mother of Exiles

"Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Do you recognize these words? I'll give you a hint: they are not from the Bible. They are part of a sonnet called "The New Colossus" which was written by poet Emma Lazarus in 1883. In 1903, the poem was engraved on a bronze plaque and mounted inside the lower level of the pedestal of *The Statue of Liberty*.

The Statue of Liberty represents many things, among them friendship between nations and freedom from oppression. Before air travel, ships would sail into New York Harbor and *Lady Liberty* would welcome their passengers, many of them being immigrants traveling to the United States for the first time. Originally conceived as an emblem of the friendship between the people of France and the U.S., and a sign of their mutual desire for liberty, over the years *The Statue* has become much more. It is the *Mother of Exiles*, greeting millions of immigrants and embodying hope and opportunity for those seeking a better life in America. It stirs the desire for freedom in people all over the world. It represents the United States itself. Although *The New Colossus* was written in 1883, what it was talking about was addressed thousands of years ago in scripture in Leviticus 19:33-34. Which states the fact that whenever a stranger joins the congregation, they are not to "do him (or her) wrong" but rather, "treat the stranger who sojourns with you as the native among you." That means, "you shall love him as yourself," or as Jesus said, "you shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:31). God reminds Israel (and us) that we too "were strangers in the land of Egypt."

The truth is, if we are going to take the bible at its word, we can't be showing partiality to anyone who is different from us. Skin color or national origin doesn't matter to God and it should not matter to us either. What does matter is that we love others as we love ourselves and that we show hospitality to strangers, regardless of where they're from.

Read what it says in Hebrews 13:2 "Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares." When was the last time you invited an angel to dinner?

One more scripture: Deuteronomy 10:17-19. ¹⁷ Because the LORD your God is the God of all gods and Lord of all lords, the great, mighty, and awesome God who doesn't play favorites and doesn't take

bribes. ¹⁸ He enacts justice for orphans and widows, and he loves immigrants, giving them food and clothing. ¹⁹ That means you must also love immigrants because you were immigrants in Egypt. Seems pretty clear to me. In a time when we are hearing all sorts of things that go against what we have been called to do as children of a loving and compassionate God, may we stand up for justice and righteousness, whatever the cost. And I look forward to seeing you on Sunday, my friends...

Pastor Tom

CHURCH AND WORLD MINISTRY

ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS

Final numbers for **Alternative Christmas** are in: 1) **Water Well** + Jerry cans and Filters \$1,519 (Youth Group), 2) **Water Tank**-Cameroon School for Blind and Handicapped \$1,363 and 3) **Immanuel House** \$555. Thanks for your generosity!!

FAITH IN ACTION

SAVE the DATES: In our January Newsletter in Coop's Corner, Pastor Tom encouraged each of us to **INVITE 5 friends to church**. Well, we have two upcoming opportunities to do just that, so **go write or type them on your calendar right now!**

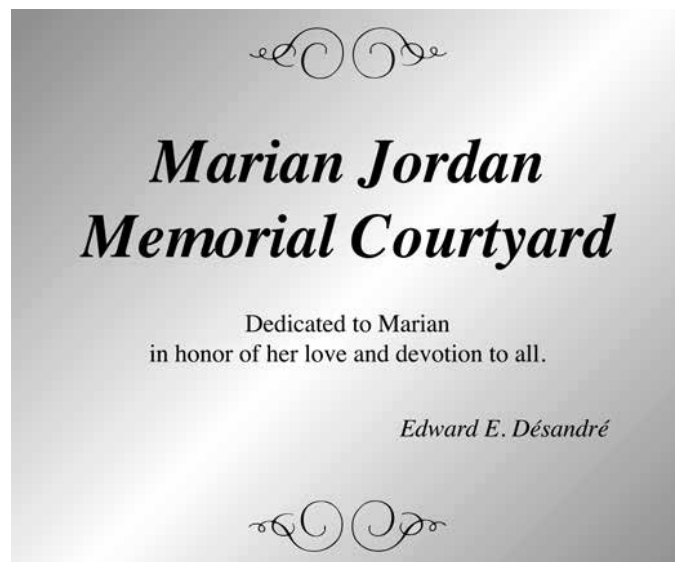
- **April 2 (no fooling)** 11 AM after worship: Come to our **MISSION FAIRE**. You'll get to meet staff from our mission partners, find out what these community organizations do, find out about current volunteer opportunities and munch on yummy snacks.
- **April 29-30-Annual FAITH in ACTION** - You can choose amongst several service opportunities such as: pack boxes at Santa Maria Urban Ministry, build a playhouse for Habitat for Humanity, Harvest surplus produce for the needy, plant a garden at the Women's Gathering Place, and pack lunches for the Front Door Ministry.

GIVE BLOOD, GIVE LIFE

Pastor Tom encouraged us to sign up for the Interfaith Red Cross blood donation event happening on March 11 (8 AM-2 PM) at the Church of Latter Day Saints, 6625 Camden Avenue, San Jose, CA 95120 in Almaden Valley. You can sign up by going to: redcrossblood.org.

The **HOPE Group** responded to an urgent need for coats and blankets for homeless shelters during the colder winter weather conditions. Thanks to De Lynn Coop for making a plea to the congregation.

*Linda Buckley,
Elder Church and World Ministry Team*



Remembering Marian Jordan

Marian Jordan was not only a dear friend to many of us but a faithful and dedicated member of our community of faith who was taken from us tragically and unexpectedly in 2006 along with her loving companion Edward Désandré. Before their deaths, Edward was instrumental in making our court yard a reality with his very generous donation in Marian's honor.

With the recent repainting of our church exterior, the original 3"x5" plastic memorial plaque was weathered and needed to be removed. A more substantial plaque befitting Marian's memory and Edward's extraordinary generosity made from stainless steel has been donated and installed on the Multipurpose Room wall facing our court yard.

Worship and Music Dave Robertson • Elder

Youth Honor God on Youth Sunday

We could not have been more proud of our youth on Sunday, January 29 when they stepped up to the pulpit and presented our worship service entirely on their own. Youth Director Injoh Tanwani provided an inspirational sermon entitled “Honor God” relating to the day’s scriptures: *Jonah 1:7-17, 2:10, 3:1-3a* and *Ecclesiastes 12:9-14*. Elder Kate Manley was also on hand in leading us in our Joys and Concerns. Thank you to Injoh and our youth for presenting such a beautiful service!



Our Youth (L-R):

Teke Ngwa, Owen Paterson, Mason Paterson, Youth Director Injoh Tanwani, Rogan Souter, Rhona Souter, Zoe Walker, Isabel Limon



Youth Director Injoh Tanwani provided a thought-provoking sermon entitled “Honor God.”

Thank you ...

...to our worship leaders in January: *Marylyn Goode, Linda Buckley, Dave Robertson and Laura Davis*. Please contact Dave Robertson if you’re interested in being a worship leader.

Thanks also to our volunteer ushers during January: *Kate Manley, Chris De La Roca, Barb Overholt, Injoh Tanwani, Carol Mello*. 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.

Special thanks to Rev. Nan Swanson who led us in worship on New Year’s Day and Marylyn Goode who organized the whole thing!

Communion Schedule

February 5 • March 5

CHILDREN'S ED MINISTRY

Sunday School Teachers & Helpers:

Date	SS Teacher	SS Helper
2/19	Gertrud Walker	Yolanda Wu
2/26	Gertrud Walker	Emmanuel Ngwa
3/5	Clariss Ngwa	TBA
3/12	DeLynn Coop	Sharon Simmons
3/19	Marilyn Morikang	Yolanda Wu
3/26	Gertrud Walker	Emmanuel Ngwa
4/2	Clariss Ngwa	TBA

Cheryl Elliot, Children's Ed Ministry Elder

ADULT ED MINISTRY

The Sunday morning *Bible Study* in the bulletin continues through the season of the rain and sun. Looking at God's love and how it guides us through our lives, we seek to follow His path of love. God calls us to make *connections* that give our lives new meaning.

As the Lord leads us, let us respond in love. Look into the Bible and let the scriptures help you discover just how God calls us to love our neighbors.

Romans 8:28 *And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to His purpose.*

What are you called to do? What are you called to say? How are you showing or sharing God's love?

Carol Miller, Adult Ed Ministry Elder

- Thanks to Edith Sona, Cathy
- Warrick and the Cameroon
- Community for treats in
- February. Be sure to sign up at
- the Activity Table to bring treats
- for your special occasion - or just
- any time!

YOUTH MINISTRY

During the holidays the youth participated in the Alternative Christmas campaign. We raised \$1,519 which was donated to the Giving Catalog Presbyterian Ministry campaign towards a garden well and filtration devices. We thank the congregation for their support and donations to achieve our goal.

This past year the youth also completed confirmation classes and presented their affirmations of faith for the congregation in December 2016.

In January, under Pastor Tom and Injoh's leadership we celebrated our first Youth service. Everyone did a fabulous job! I have received very positive feedback regarding the service. Although everyone was nervous I think it was a proud accomplishment for everyone. Please see the photo on the next page.

Kate Manley, Youth Elder



Join us
for the 89th
Academy
Awards

When: Sunday, February 26 3:30 - ???
Red Carpet begins at 4,
Awards begin at 5:30

Where: at the Simmons home
3284 Padilla Way SJ 95148

What to bring:

Finger food and/or drinks to share

What's happening? We will watch the Oscars and play some games (with prizes!!) based on the nominated movies.

Fun! Fun! Fun!

Sign-up a the Activity Table

See you there!!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Thanks to all of you who purchased PW fundraiser nuts these past few months. Our profit was around \$646. We already voted to provide \$150 to 'The Grateful Garment Project' and we renewed our Annual PW Mission Pledge for \$200. We will be looking for other worthy community causes and possible projects around our church. A reminder to those who regularly attend PW, your annual membership dues of \$12 is now payable (you can give your check made out to PW to Cathy Warrick). At our meeting on Tuesday, January 24, we decided to suspend the Secret Sister program for this year as we have had low participation. We still plan to have our annual Christmas Gathering in December and will do our cookie and gift exchange.



There is a special PW event coming up in March that is worth noting on your calendar. On Saturday, March 25, Presbyterian Women will gather at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church from 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM for a forum on "Levels of Literacy". Roberto Gill, the Director of Educational Programs at Sacred Heart Community Services in San Jose, will be the speaker. There will be a panel of experts from pre-school, elementary, secondary and adult levels! This is an area of mission work for PCUSA and PW. In 2015, an initiative was adopted by the 221st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The initiative, titled "Educate a Child, Transform the World," seeks to participate in the alleviation of global poverty. Come learn how we can make an impact locally. We can take action to ensure that children develop good reading skills. Reading unlocks the world of education. A child who can read can comprehend math problems, meet characters in books, and understand that history is the fascinating past that makes us who we are. A child who can read realizes that reading leads to learning and discovery - from the secrets of science and how to improve crops to applying that knowledge to feed a village. Reading is the key to educating a child who will transform the world. Social Justice issues cannot be solved without looking at a fundamental reason that handicaps any effort for change - LITERACY FOR ALL. Reservations (lunch is included) need to be made by early March. You can email Rosaleen Zisch at rmgzisch@gmail.com

Our next STHPC PW meeting date is being changed to Saturday, February 18 from 10 AM - noon. We will be doing lesson #5 of our PW study, 'Who is Jesus' and we will be exploring thru the lens of Paul. We will also start discussing when and how we will approach doing our annual Women's Celebration Sunday Service. All Women are invited to come. We meet in the Multi-Purpose room at the church.

Cheryl Elliot, moderator

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

Comfy couches, good food, and friends made for a great time in the Fellowship Hall on Super Bowl Sunday. We watched the game, played games, awarded prizes and ate. What more can you ask for?

Join us at our next event – the 89th Academy Awards Oscar Party on Sunday, February 26. See the information on page 4 for details. Also put Saturday, April 8 on your calendar for Comedy Sportz in downtown San Jose.

We encourage everyone to complete the Fellowship Survey. It came in your emails as a Constant Contact and will only take you 3 minutes to fill out. We're trying to serve you better.

Lynn Hines, Fellowship Elder



Helping Hands



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

Requested items: Immediate needs – green beans, mac & cheese, peanut butter and chili. Also, cans of fruit and cans of vegetables, cans of soup or chili, canned meats, jelly, pasta & pasta sauce are also appreciated. Flip-top cans are appreciated by many!

Monthly summary: Between January 8 and February 15, 41 people were assisted; 31 people received food and 16 people received bus tokens. Kristie was able to honor requests for 1 gift card and 1 backpack. One person received cash.

Food donations totaled 166 lbs. Thank you for donations from STHPC: 21 lbs., St. Julie's: 120 lbs., and Other: 25 lbs.

*The Deacons
and the Church & World Committee*

VISIBILITY/ SESSION NOTES

Session Notes from January

- 1). As part of the annual Stewardship campaign, members will be encouraged to sign up for Givelify as a means to donate to STHPC online.
- 2). Boy Scouts are growing and have asked about using more of the facility, including the Fellowship Hall. Session will consider charging them a small rent.
- 3). 3D Preschool has proposed putting a trailer beyond the Fellowship Hall to be used for additional classroom space. They will pay all costs associated with this and STHPC will benefit from the increased rent to be charged. 3D is working with a contractor and will bring a plan/proposal to STHPC Session for review/approval.
- 4). The February Session meeting has been moved to Tuesday, February 21 at 6:59 PM.

Session meetings are open meetings. Anyone can attend with the exception of infrequent personnel matters. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month starting at 6:59 PM. (except Feb. 2017 see 4.)

Visibility Update

- 1). The Youth banner is on display!
- 2). The latest newsletters and copies of sermons are always available on the website as well as a video of the most recent sermon. Please check these out.

Bill Simmons, Visibility Ministry Elder

Nursery Attendants

2/19 Rebecca Elliot
2/26 Ashley Fitzgerald
3/5 Alfred Morikang
3/12 Nan Brown
3/19 Rebecca Elliot
3/26 Ashley Fitzgerald
4/2 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



Income and Expenses

	January 2017 Month to Date	Through 1/17 Year to Date
Income	\$31,181	\$31,181
Expense	\$29,735	\$29,735
Net Income	\$1,446	\$1,446



Reasons to Celebrate!

Birthdays

February 1	Philmon Mosi, Chelsea Cunningham
February 2	Stephen Buckley, Laura Davis
February 3	Caydance Cunningham
February 15	Vivian Harley
February 18	Carol Miller
February 21	Cheryl Elliot
February 22	Kate Manley
February 23	Alex Manley
February 24	Pat Judge
February 25	Kelsey Hines
February 27	Courtney Mays, Injoh Tanwani
March 3	Ruth LeBas
March 5	Nathan McArthur
March 12	Vern Tegger, Caryl Brown
March 16	Linda Buckley, Bill Simmons, Ryan Njinda
March 19	Christopher Needham
March 20	Gil Chesterton, Joe Buttle
March 25	Joy Lee
March 26	Alec Paterson
March 28	Carolyn Tulloch

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!

Anniversaries

February 23	Ron and Jeanie Shelton
March 10	Emmanuel & Claris Ngwa

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

Sun., Feb. 26	Celebration Sunday after worship
Sun., Feb. 26	Oscar Party (see pg.4 for details)
Sun. March 12	Daylight Savings Time Begins
Sun., March 19	Annual Congregational Meeting (after worship)
Sun., April 2	Mission Faire (see pg. 2 for more info)
Sat. & Sun. April 29-30	Faith in Action weekend (see pg. 2 for more info)

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

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: March 22
for April 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 Congregational
Meeting
Sunday, March 19
immediately after
Worship

