

Echoes from the Hills

Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church • San Jose, California



COOP'S CORNER

HOLY WEEK

Holy Week is fast approaching. Your *Worship and Music* ministry team and I are busy planning five GREAT services, four of which I hope you attend.

First up is **Palm Sunday, April 9th**. I will finish my sermon series on Palm Sunday trying to understand Jesus through the lens of the writings of the Apostle Paul. Paul's whole focus is on the cross and the ensuing resurrection. Very appropriate for this time of year. Not only that, but we will also have a unique Palm Sunday parade you won't want to miss.

On **Thursday, April 13th**, we will hold a very special **Maundy Thursday** service in the sanctuary at 7:30 PM. Maundy Thursday is the commemoration of Jesus' last supper with his disciples before he goes out to the Garden of Gethsemane and is subsequently arrested, tried, and crucified. This is the night where Jesus institutes the sacrament of communion, which we will also observe. The service this night will be simple, but profound. If you have never been to a Maundy Thursday service before, I hope that you will make an effort to attend this one.

Friday, April 14th, is **Good Friday**. Again, at 7:30 PM we will meet together to remember the sacrifice that Jesus made for all of us. Most folks would prefer to just skip this service – I mean, who wants to have to reflect on the misery and pain that Jesus had to go through? However, if we don't, we can never fully appreciate the joy of the resurrection and the celebration of Easter.

It seems odd that we call it "Good" Friday when what happened was so horrific, however, the ultimate result is certainly good. Dave Robertson and I are still putting together the service as I write this, but if Dave is involved, you know it will be worth it. In addition, the choir sings at this service, which always adds a great deal of depth to what we do.

Okay, that's three services I count on you attending. Now, I will give you a choice on the final two. **Easter Sunrise or Easter Traditional.**

Easter Sunrise will be at 6:00 AM (some wear their pajamas) and we get to experience the sunrise during the service. I think it is the most moving of all the services during Holy Week. We meet in the courtyard, so wear something warm. And to top it all off, after the service we all go out to breakfast together.

At our **Traditional Easter Service** at 10:00 AM we encourage folks to bring a flower (don't worry if you forget, we will have extras) for the flowering of the cross. How absolutely stunning the cross looks

when it is fully adorned with flowers! The choir also will be singing some very special music, and I hear the sermon is not too bad either!

So, come to one, but hopefully, four of our services this **Holy Week**. You are only depriving yourself if you don't attend. I will be looking for you.

Be blessed this sacred time of year. And my sincere prayer is that as you join us you will deepen your relationship with the Christ who gave everything so we can live again.

Pastor Tom



BEYOND FASTING ... JOURNEY THROUGH LENT

Lent is not only a time for self-reflection and prayer, it is also time to put our good intentions into action. Each week between Ash Wednesday and Easter we're going to focus on an action we can take to deepen our relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

Our Lenten theme is "Who Is Jesus?" Pastor Tom will examine the views of Jesus through the eyes of the Gospels and Paul. Each week we will have a "Moment for Commitment," focusing on alternative ways of moving closer to Jesus, such as saying "thank you," serving others, reading devotions, performing random acts of kindness ...

MOMENTS FOR COMMITMENT


- March 5 Apologize to someone** – Lent is a season of repentance. Ask forgiveness or apologize to someone that you know you've wronged.
- March 12 Perform Random Acts of Kindness** – Do something nice or unexpected like paying for the person behind you; hand out gift or food cards; talk and really listen to someone; share the love of Jesus.
- March 19 Read a Devotional** – Worship and Music will provide URLs and copies of Lenten devotionals. Read one and meditate on it.
- March 26 Tell Others You Love Them** – Some of us struggle with those three little words "I love you." Don't assume people know. Say them to someone who needs to hear it from you.


- April 2 Serve or Visit People In Need** – Help out at a nursing/rehab facility, volunteer at a charitable organization, visit with folks in nursing facilities.
- April 9 Say "Thank You"** – Thank someone who has shaped you into the person you are either in person or by way of a note. For some, this person may not be with us any longer – write them a letter anyway.



There will be a large board at the front of the Sanctuary each week, and you are invited to come up at the end of the service and commit to an action by writing it on a PostIt® and posting it. Next week come back and put a check mark by it. At the end of Lent we will see the power we have to change ourselves, and collectively change our world.

Holy Week Calendar

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- April 9 • 10:00 a.m. • **Palm Sunday**
-
- April 13 • 7:30 p.m. • **Maundy Thursday**
-
- April 14 • 7:30 p.m. • **Good Friday**

- 
- April 16, 6:00 a.m.
Easter Sunrise Service
-
- April 16, 10:00 a.m.
Easter Celebration Service

Worship and Music

Dave Robertson • Elder

Welcome New Deacon!

Sunday, March 12, **Chris De La Roca** was ordained and installed into the ministry of Deacons. Being a Deacon is a wonderful call to service. Deacons are the “servants” or “caregivers” of the congregation. People have all kinds of needs – they are recovering from surgery, grieving, lonely, ill, or otherwise in a time where they welcome the ministry of care from our congregation. In a very real way, Deacons are the hands and heart of the Church in our ministry of caring. Serving as a Deacon of Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church is a privilege and a blessing. It is also an opportunity for spiritual growth and fellowship. As a deacon, you are given the opportunity to know other church members in a deeper way, serving alongside them and growing in your understanding of the burdens people carry and how the church can help. Please welcome Chris with open arms into this very important ministry.



Celebrating Cameroon Style!



We were blessed on February 12 and March 12 to have the Cameroon Choir with us. The sanctuary rocked with percussion instruments as accompaniment for the choir’s choral selections of “What Manner of Man Is Jesus?” and “My God and Father While I Stray,” “There is Joy in the Lord” and “Standing on the Promises of Christ My King.”

Thank you to **Mary Jane Judge** for providing our Offertory on March 12 “Shepherd Show Me How to Go” on organ and to **Carol Miller** for her writing talent with “Christ, Our Light” which was sung to the tune of “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee.” What talent we are blessed with weekly!



Thank you ... to our worship leaders in February and March: *DeLynn Coop, Marylyn Goode, Linda Buckley, Mojoko (Edith) Sona, Barb Overholt*. Please contact Dave Robertson if you’re interested in being a worship leader.

Thanks also to our volunteer ushers: *Gertie Walker, Yvonne Miller, Barb Overholt, Jay Hartley, Carol Mello, Marilyn Morikang, our Youth, Chris De La Roca, Kate Manley, Rebecca Elliot*. Head Usher 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.

CHURCH AND WORLD MINISTRY

APRIL 2 MISSION FAIR

No fooling! Let's open our hearts, hands and minds to local mission partners and organizations who are making a difference! Join us right after worship in the courtyard to munch and network with reps giving up their Sunday morning to share what they do. **DON'T MISS IT...INVITE YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS.** A partial list includes: HABITAT FOR HUMANITY, SOUTH VALLEY YMCA, CORRECTIONAL FACILITY CHAPLAINS, FRONT DOOR MINISTRY, WOMENS GATHERING PLACE, SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK, and IMMANUEL HOUSE.

FAITH in ACTION-April 28-30

At our Mission Fair, you can start signing up for Faith in Action hands-on activities. **Friday April 28:** make blankets for hospitalized children (YOUTH), assemble food packets with Food4All, **Saturday April 29:** harvest surplus produce for the needy, plant a garden/paint the patio at First Pres. San Jose, pack brown bag lunches for homeless (YOUTH), pack food boxes at Santa Maria Urban Ministry, and build play structure parts for Habitat for Humanity. **Sunday April 30: WORSHIP at our regular time - 10 to 11 AM,** Letter-Writing BREAD for the World (advocating for issues related to food access/hunger) and closing celebration. **Please invite your friends, neighbors, youth and co-workers to participate. Sign up for:** one or more activities and to bring food items for the YOUTH-led brown bag lunch assembly!



The VILLAGE HOUSE Interfaith homeless shelter: Pastor Tom & DeLynn Coop joined by Elder Linda Buckley, attended an interfaith dinner meeting Sunday evening March 19 at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church. The **Village House**, in its second year of operation, is a rotating church-based shelter program housing 12-15 carefully screened homeless women. Each month one local church, like St. Julie's, hosts the women overnight while other churches commit to daytime hosting (a safe place to hang out, shower, nap). One way STHPC could participate in this effort could be to provide dinner meals or bag lunches to **SUPPORT** the overnight or daytime hosting congregations. We heard some very inspirational stories of churches that took a leap of faith and discovered the congregation "gained more than the guests (the homeless women)" from this exchange.

*Linda Buckley,
Elder Church and World Ministry Elder*

YOUTH MINISTRY

The Youth are excited to participate in Faith in Action! We will be making bag lunches for people in need and blankets for the San Jose Animal Shelter. We will meet at STHPC on Saturday, April 29 from 10 AM - 2 PM. Congregation members, please sign up to donate the needed items.

*Yours in faith,
Kate Manley, Youth Elder*



ADULT ED MINISTRY

Spring forward. Take the leap. Hop

on
down.

Take action. Ready, set, go.

Are you ready for this?

Say a prayer. Give someone a hand. Sing a song of praise. Give someone a call. Bless someone.

Lend a hand. Make a donation. Think outside of the box. Encourage someone. Share.

Show your love. Smile. Volunteer. Face the truth. Wait with someone. Walk with someone.

Take a walk in the garden. Be creative about how you share God's love. Say thanks.

Listen. Share your faith. Look out over the ocean. Look up through the trees.

Stand on a mountaintop. Take in the glory of God. Stop and rejoice.

Are you ready for this?

God is calling you.

Take action. Ready, set, go.

Ephesians 2:10 *"For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."* (NIV)

- What has God been calling you to do?
- Make a list of things God is calling you to do.
- Share your choice of action and walk with a friend.

Watch for the weekly Bible study in the Sunday bulletin.

The word of the Lord is a Blessing to share.

Carol Miller, Adult Ed Ministry Elder

CHILDREN'S ED MINISTRY

Holy Week is coming soon and we have lots of great special services to help celebrate. A reminder that child care will be available at all of the services (thanks Rachele!) and thus we encourage you to bring your family and also feel free to invite your friends and neighbors. Sunday School for March and April will be following the lesson plans from our curriculum source Sermon4kids.com. I would like to again thank all of our Sunday School Teachers and helpers for their dedication to the ministry of our children's Christian Education. We do have some openings that I still need to fill, so if you feel you might be able to help out in the Nursery or Sunday School one Sunday a month, please come see me.

For Palm Sunday we have a special treat in store. Yolanda Wu's son, Ethan, will be playing the piano for the prelude and first hymn! We are also planning to involve the children and youth in our worship service that day, so please make sure you come and see our kids in action!

Sunday School Teachers & Helpers:

Date	Lead Teacher	SS Helper
4/2	DeLynn Coop	Clariss Ngwa
4/9	DeLynn Coop	Yolanda Wu
4/16	Marilyn Morikang	Yolanda Wu
4/23	Gertrud Walker	Emmanuel Ngwa
4/30	Clariss Ngwa	TBD
5/7	DeLynn Coop	TBD

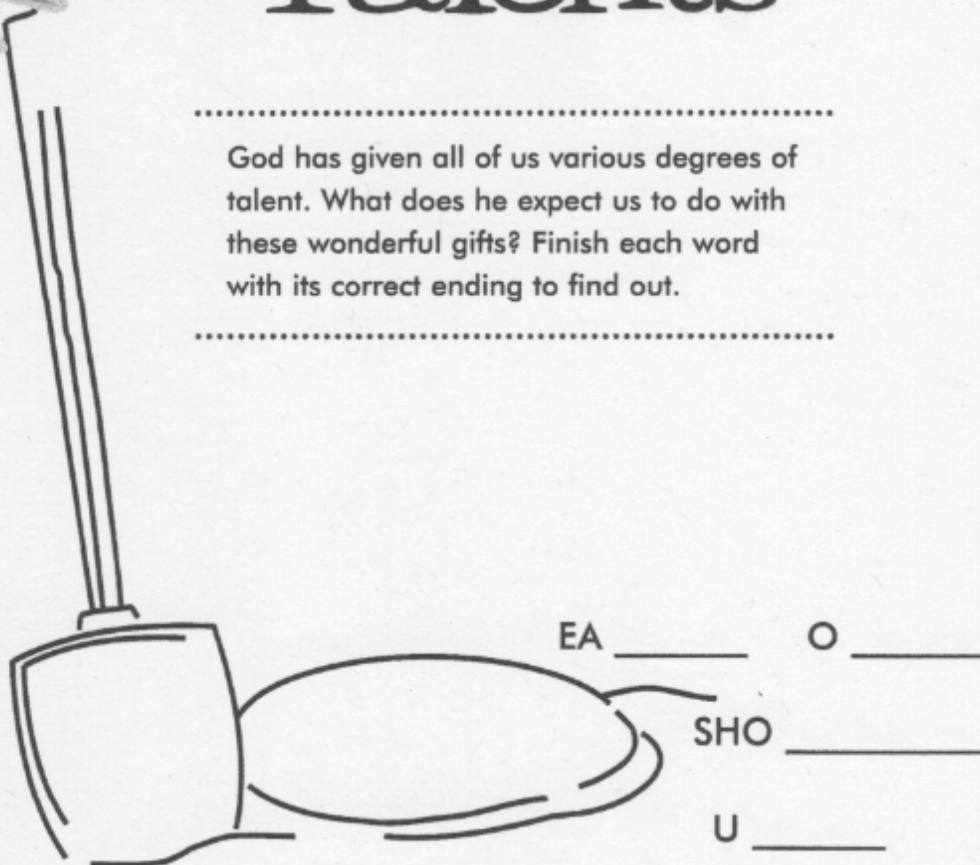
Cheryl Elliot, Children's Ed Ministry Elder

**Parable of the
Talents
Matthew 25**

Talents

.....
God has given all of us various degrees of talent. What does he expect us to do with these wonderful gifts? Finish each word with its correct ending to find out.
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The 3rd Annual Music in the Parks at STHPC

This year, STHPC will be a host venue for two Music in the Parks festivals. Dates for the festivals are **Saturdays - May 6th and May 13th**. This is a unique program where choirs and bands perform and are judged in the morning and then head to an amusement park for fun and awards. STHPC will be hosting choirs at our venue. The students will then go to Great America afterward.



Hosting Music in the Parks is not only community service; it also **brings in \$500 per event for STHPC**, plus sales made at the concessions table. However, hosting requires more than just opening our doors to the choirs; we need to staff this event as well. Robin DeJarnett is coordinating the event, but she needs some help. Here are some of the jobs you can volunteer for:

Set up/tear down: Prepare the sanctuary and fellowship hall for the festival before and for worship after. Some setup will happen either Thursday or Friday before.

Sound/stage managers: Set up and monitor the sound systems in the sanctuary and fellowship hall. Manage mics and stage crew.

Registration: Check in the choirs and distribute tickets. Sell extra tickets to Great America.

Bus Greeter: Meet the buses at the curb and direct the choirs to the entrance. Direct buses to parking on Chynoweth.

Concessions: Set up and sell candy, donuts, coffee, and Music in the Parks t-shirts.

Announcer: Announce the choirs on stage.

Choir Guides: Escort choirs from the bus to warm up to performance (usually students).

Judges Care: Provides the judges with water, pencils (if necessary), and runs any forms that may be needed (usually a student).

Door monitors: Make sure performances are not interrupted by people coming in and out.

Many of these jobs can be done by either adults or teens. Teens who volunteer will receive credit for their volunteer time. We will also be coordinating with Santa Teresa High School for volunteers, so some of our volunteers will already have experience working a Music in the Parks festival.

If you would like to help, please contact Robin DeJarnett at blondieakarobin@gmail.com or sign up after worship on Sundays. I will have sign up information including times and openings for all events. Thank you for supporting this community service event and for helping raise some money for STHPC!

Robin DeJarnett, Coordinator



CROP HUNGER WALK

ENDING HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME

SOUTH BAY CROP HUNGER WALK

Sunday, April 23

The South Bay CROP Walk will be **Sunday, April 23** in Downtown San Jose. The route takes you through the beautiful Rose Garden neighborhood. 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 noon 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... and/or support our walkers via donations. Did you know that with only \$50 CWS (Church World Service) can begin a community garden for families with a hoe, shovel and seeds? Or that \$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).

Cheryl & Paul Elliot, coordinators

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

See what fun we have when we gather together! The Simmons hosted 18 fun loving people at their home to watch the Academy Awards at the end of February. We ate, we laughed, we watched - and we played games. Many prizes were given. Join us at our Fellowship activities. We guarantee that you'll have a good time!

We will be compiling the results of our survey at our next meeting. Our goal is to have more people attend our events.

Lynn Hines, Fellowship Elder



• Thanks to the Cameroon Community (twice!), the Elliots, Cathy Warrick and the Congregational Engagement Ministry Team for treats in February and March. And special thanks to those who helped clean up!

• Treat Schedule for April

- 4/2 Mission Fair
- 4/9 open
- 4/16 Easter - Deacons
- 4/23 open
- 4/30 Faith in Action celebration
- 5/7 open



Sign up at the Activity Table
to bring treats for your
special occasion -
or any time!

VISIBILITY/ SESSION NOTES

Session Notes from March

- 1). Chris De La Roca was Ordained and Installed as a Deacon on March 12, 2017
- 2). STHPC must annually elect the Church Treasurer. Libby Souter was elected to extend her service and she graciously agreed.
- 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 (~\$2500/month). Session agreed in principal pending additional information (city planning, pre-school licensing).
- 4). The 2017 budget was reviewed and approved. We will have a balanced budget!
- 5). The paid employees performance reviews were presented and all will receive a 3.5% increase retroactive to Jan 1. The pastor's compensation package was reviewed and approved at the congregational meeting on March 19.

Visibility Update

- 1). The youth have proposed a new banner to replace the existing one (4' X 8'). In addition they have purchased 3 floating flags to be placed in the front lawn. It will be difficult for anyone driving by NOT to recognize our church!
- 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

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

In March, our 6th lesson of the 'Who is Jesus' PW bible study had us looking at the Book of Hebrews and how Jesus was portrayed as greater than any other figure who had come before him. Hebrews demonstrated the majesty and perfection of Jesus, and also the relational, personal earthly nature of Jesus. The author of Hebrews calls us to be strong in the faith, as many at the time of the writing were in great need of assurance and comfort as they struggled in their decision to follow Christ.

Our next STHPC PW meeting will be on Tuesday, April 18 from 7:30 PM-9 PM. All women are invited to come to our PW meetings. We meet in the Multi-Purpose room at the church. At our April meeting, we will be doing lesson #7 of our PW study, 'Who is Jesus' and we will be exploring thru the lens of the non-Canonical gospels. Other stories about Jesus circulated in the early centuries of Christianity, offering us accounts of the "missing years" of Jesus and give us insight into the diversity of early Christianity.

I just received the copy of 2017/2018 PW Bible Study. It is entitled 'Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews'. Melissa Bane Sevier is the author of this study and she was asked to approach Hebrews through the lenses of peace, peacemaking and hope and to feature stories of women who have been witnesses to faith. I am looking forward to this bible study, which we will start in the Fall.

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 February 16 and March 20, people were assisted; 16 people received food and 5 people received bus tokens. Kristie was able to honor requests for 2 gift cards. Two people received cash.

Food donations totaled 654 lbs.! Thank you for donations from STHPC: 167 lbs., a friend of the church 330 lbs.!, St Julie's: 140 lbs, and Other: 17 lbs.

*The Deacons
and the Church & World Committee*

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOTES

Notes from the Annual Congregational Meeting – March 19, 2017

- 1). Total active membership as of December 2016 was 130.
- 2). 2017 budget was presented with expenses of \$297,607 and projected income of \$300,238. Surplus to be allocated to Two Month Reserve.
- 3). Pastor Tom's salary package was passed by the congregation. Salary and housing \$99,101 and benefit payments of \$51,870 (includes benefits, expenses and Study Leave, etc.) for a total of \$150,971.
- 4). Audit Committee report noted a satisfactory completion of the 2015 audit.
- 5). Cathy Williams, Dave Robertson, and Robin DeJarnett were elected to serve on the 2017 Audit Committee.
- 6). Horace Hines, Jerry McMinn, and Yvonne Miller were elected to serve on the 2017 Nominating Committee.

Bill Simmons, Visibility Ministry Elder

Nursery Attendants

4/2 Alfred Morikang
4/9 TBD
4/16 Rebecca Elliot
4/23 Ashley Fitzgerald
4/30 Alfred Morikang
5/7 TBD



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

	February 2017 Month to Date	Through 2/17 Year to Date
Income	\$23,388	\$54,893
Expense	\$26,254	\$54,611
Net Income	-\$2,866	\$282



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 20 Marilyn Morikang
April 25 Dottie Simmerly
April 28 Yvonne Miller, Nancy Girton

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: 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

Mission Fair	April 2 (see page 4 for details)
Holy Week	April 9 - 16 (see page 2 for details)
Crop Walk	April 23 (see page 8 for details)
Faith in Action	April 28 -30 (see page 4 for details)
Music in the Parks	Saturdays, May 6 & 13 (see page 7 for details)

*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**

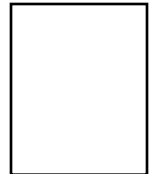
Church Bulletin deadline: Thursday 9:00 AM

Church Historian: Barb Overholt

**Church Newsletter deadline: May 2
for May/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



Palm Sunday April 9
Maundy Thursday April 13
Good Friday April 14
Easter Sunday April 16

