

Echoes from the Hills

Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church • San Jose, California



COOP'S CORNER

From Surviving to Thriving

I am currently reading a book called, **“From Surviving to Thriving: A Practical Guide to Revitalize Your Church”**, by Rev. Dr. John H. Krahn.

The book’s introduction starts by asking these questions: “Is your church weaker than it was ten years ago or even five years ago?” “On Sunday morning are the pews in your church rarely full?” “Do you have more people in your church over sixty than under sixty?”

I have to say those questions caught my attention, and not in a good way. So, I checked our statistics over the last five years. Did you know that in 2012 we had 165 active members and had a weekly worship attendance of 95? And, did you know that by the end of 2016 we had only 123 active members and average 72 in worship every Sunday?

Yikes! We can’t sustain those kind of losses.

The truth is, studies suggest that almost 90% of all churches are either declining in membership or have plateaued. The median number of worshipers for all denominations combined is only 75 people on a Sunday morning. On the average Sunday, only 18% of the population in the US attends church. I would bet that percentage is much lower here in Silicon Valley.

The church is a living organism. It is either growing, or it is dying. Excuses abound for its failure. “We are surrounded by Hispanics and they are all Catholic or Evangelicals.” “So many of our good, active members have died or moved away.” “People are no longer as committed as they used to be.” “It’s not my job to bring in new people, that’s the pastor’s job.”

In many mainline denominations, the *Great Commission* has become the great omission. Before Christ ascended into heaven, he gave his followers the imperative to go and make disciples of all nations. I don’t believe it was an optional activity. The church’s mission then is to know Christ and to make Christ known.

Listen to what the Apostle Peter says in 1 Peter 2:9-10 ...

⁹ But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light.

¹⁰ *Once you were not a people, but now you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.*

Through God's mercy, which has made us God's own people, we have been called to give witness to the wonderful deeds of God to the communities in which God has planted us. Thus, it is the church's and every individual Christian's mission to take the gospel into the home, into the community, and into the entire world. Not in a demanding or condemning way – but just by invitation.

We all need to get out of our ruts and start doing something. No one is saying that it is going to be easy.

I am not even sure what the steps we need to take are going to look like. But I do know that if we continue to expect that people will walk up to our door and beg to let us in, we will eventually die.

Your session is going to gather on Saturday, October 7th and wrestle with just this issue. But it isn't their responsibility alone. We need everyone to open their hearts, pray away their fear, and then invite someone, anyone, to have what you have.

We have a very special place here at Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church. We have loving, committed, generous, Christ-filled, accepting, and encouraging saints. Who wouldn't want what we have?

We need to start now. Today. Don't wait for tomorrow, cuz tomorrow may never come.

After Session meets I will share with you all the amazing and fantastic and creative ideas and projects that your session came up with and how you can be involved.

Until then, don't be afraid of what you believe – proclaim it – live it – embrace it – pray for it.

And, my friends, I will see you on Sunday as we move forward together in love!

God bless you all!!!

Pastor Tom

Building and Grounds Update

Dave Robertson, Elder



What Got Fixed This Month ...

- Thank you **Horace Hines** for repairing the stove in the kitchen (new burner and drip pans)
- Thank you **Pat Judge** for repairing and painting both the picnic tables (new strong legs and bracing, securing the top boards)
- Replaced broken light fixture outside Fellowship Hall
- Fellowship Hall floors cleaned and waxed
- Air conditioning repairs in the church office and sanctuary (again)
- Broken sprinkler control valve and sprinkler heads replaced

What We Have Planned ...

- Discussing re-installing the fountain in the courtyard
- We are planning a work party to install more landscaping on the back berm. Watch for an invitation.

Handymen and Handywomen Needed

Can you clean? Plant? Change light bulbs? Fix plumbing, electrical, do minor wood/building repairs? Building and Grounds needs extra hands to help with fixin' stuff at the church. Please let Dave Robertson know if you can help out in any way.

Ordinations • Installations



On July 16 Marilyn Morikang was ordained and installed as an elder. She was surrounded by other ordained elders and deacons in prayer.



Rev. Dale Bracey graced our pulpit on July 2 and August 6 for Pastor Tom. Always good to have Pastor Dale with us!



June 25 • L-R: Carol Miller (elder), Cheryl Elliot (deacon), Vicky O'Hara (deacon), Barb Overholt (elder).

Hugh McDevitt (right) was on hand to conduct our choir on July 23. Hugh was one of the candidates interviewing for the Choir Director position. We are pleased to announce Hugh will be coming on board as Choir Director this September.



Worship Calendar of Events

Homecoming Sunday

September 10

Upcoming Communion Sundays:

September 3 • October 1

Kudos and Acknowledgements

A big thank you goes out to **Susan Hunt-McArthur** for stepping in on July 30 as musical accompanist in Tiffany's absence.

To **Dave Robertson** as lay preacher for stepping up to the pulpit on August 27 in Pastor Tom's absence.

Thank You Ushers

For July and August: *Horace and Lynn Hines, Annie Sunseri, Bill and Sharon Simmons, Barb Overholt, Edith Sona, Marylyn Goode, Chris De La Roca, Dave Robertson, Carol Mello, Cheryl and Paul Elliot.*

Thank You Worship Leaders

For July and August: *Dave Robertson, Marylyn Goode, Linda Buckley, Barb Overholt, Horace Hines, Yvonne Miller.*



On July 16, Joe Taff was on hand to add to the congregation's musical experience before heading off to graduate school.

CHURCH AND WORLD MINISTRY

Back to school BACKPACKS: Many thanks to all those who donated school supplies and cash completing 24 backpacks for low income children/youth referred through SMUM (Santa Maria Urban Ministry). The cash, totaling \$85, allowed our coordinator Cathy Warrick, to fill in missing items. Our portion of the Pentecost offering, \$178, also went to SMUM to help low income youth. We received a big thanks from SMUM Director Alfonso Mendez for both donations.

PEACEMAKING OFFERING-October 1st, World

Communion Sunday: Although 6 weeks away, now is a good time to focus on peace - locally, nationally and internationally. Conflict resolution and anti-bullying skills should be taught when children are young, which is what some local non-profit organizations are doing at the elementary level and through recreation at the YMCA.

City Team Ministries: Thanks to all who gave to City Team Ministries so that working families could obtain summer food boxes - especially as children didn't have access to school breakfast or lunch programs.

Ministries of San Jose First Presbyterian Church-downtown: "**Lifted Spirits**" is the *new name* for *Women's Gathering Place* - where homeless, marginally housed or lonely women can drop in 3 days/week for a hot lunch, clothes, toiletries, do laundry and once/week shower/get medical care from a mobile van.

Volunteer opportunities: Lifted Spirits is opening up a computer lab with 3 computers. This way the women can develop tech skills, use the internet, type/send out resumes, etc. If you have **basic computer skills**, and some patience, your help is needed to support women in the lab on Mon., Wed., or Fri. 1 to 3 PM. **Front Door Community** (formerly *Ministry*): If you are free on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesdays from 9-11:45 AM, you can help assemble bag lunches for homeless and marginally housed. Please contact **Karleen D**, church administrator at First Presbyterian Church San Jose: **408-297 7212**.

GRACE AB 1520: Assembly Bill 1520 proposes reducing child poverty by 50% over the next 20 years, sponsored by a local non-profit named GRACE and introduced into California State legislature by Autumn

(Church & World con't)

R. Burke (D-Inglewood). Through evidence based interventions, the goal is to lift one million California children out of poverty.

Silicon Valley Hunger Paradox? Most of you have heard of Second Harvest, one of the largest food distribution centers for the needy within the greater Bay Area. Their recent newsletter states the following mind-blowing statistics: 1 in 4 people in Silicon Valley is at risk for hunger or is "food

insecure". Almost 25% of these are families with children. The paradox is that unemployment here is at an all-time low-but those top earners are driving up the cost of living for all. This means more people are at risk for hunger. Nearly 700,000 or 27% of the population of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties are at risk of hunger.

Linda Buckley, Elder Church and World Ministry Elder



Annual Homecoming Sunday

Sunday, September 10, 2017

Breakfast 9:00 AM

Worship 10:00 AM

Sign up at the Activity Table to bring one of the following (to serve 8 - 10):

Egg Puff (recipe provided - or other breakfast casserole of your choice)

Fruit

Muffins/bread

(if you're not at church to sign up just come and bring something!)

Thank you to Valentine Engo, Mary Azah, Cathy Warrick, Marylyn Goode and Cheryl Elliot for treats during July and August. The "open" dates below are opportunities to help provide fellowship after our worship services.

Treat Schedule/Clean-up help needed also



August 27 Marylyn Morikang

September 10 Rhona Souter

All other dates are open!!!

Amount for a "normal" Sunday is approximately ONE of the following: 8 dozen cookies, OR - 4 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! Sign-up at the Activity Table or the Treat Table.

CHILDREN'S ED MINISTRY

Continuous thanks to the Sunday School teachers and helpers for the time, energy and commitment they put in this summer to teach our Sunday School children and Youth. You are valued and I want to make sure you have all you need to do what God has called you to do. Please do not hesitate to contact me with questions. Special thanks to Carol Miller for providing the scripture study notes on the Minor prophets. We will round up the Minor prophets with Malachi on September 3rd, 2017. Please look for new lesson plans beginning September 10th (Homecoming Sunday).

Sunday School Teachers & Helpers

Date	Teacher	Helper
8/27	Clariss Ngwa	Lynn Hines
9/03	Marilyn Morikang	Yolanda Wu
9/10	DeLynn Coop	TBD
9/17	Gertie Walker	Emmanuel Ngwa
9/24	Clariss Ngwa	TBD
10/1	Marilyn Morikang	Yolanda Wu



Kids and Youth having fun while learning about Habakkuk

Marilyn Morikang, Children's Ed Ministry Elder

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

This year's Vacation Bible School "visited" Rome. Between July 17 – 20, 28 kids met each day with Apostle Paul who was under house arrest. The kids then made their way to the secretive "underground" church where early Christians gathered. Daily they also went to the Roman marketplace, had delicious snacks and made different things at the "craft" stores.

At the beginning and end of each VBS day we met for Extolo (praise and worship time) to learn the bible points and sing songs. For the mission project, we raised \$125.40 to



help supply clean water for Peruvian children. Only \$5 will provide one kid clean water for a year! We gathered enough to support 25 kids for a year! Many thanks to Oak Grove Church, Lisa Wagner, and all the volunteer staff who made this year's VBS happen.

- Cheryl Elliot



ADULT ED MINISTRY



We will continue the Bible study sheet in the bulletin each Sunday. It is our hope to get everyone into the Bible and find God's word to each of us. The take home sheet is intended to continue your walk with God. The Upper Room is also a way to build faith day by day, Watch for news of other study opportunities.

A word creation game: make as many words as you can out of CORINTHIANS. The list is started for you.

CORINTHIANS

2 letters	3 letters	4 letters	5 or more
or	hot	thin	rations

Carol Miller, Adult Ed Ministry Elder

YOUTH MINISTRY

A special thank you to children's education for adding the youth to their summer education series. The youth have been enjoying the activities. What a blessing to have such a great team at our church.

In August, we have two youth events to celebrate summer and our successful year. Our first event was at Rockin' Jump in San Jose on August 5. We all had a great time. Our next event is August 26th from 10:30 AM - 1:30 PM at Golfland in San Jose. The youth will enjoy miniature golf and can do water slides if they would like.

*Kate Manley,
Youth Ministry
Elder*



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

We are starting our 2017/2018 PW Bible Study, entitled 'Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews' in September. Melissa Bane Sevier, the author of this study, 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 have placed an order for 15 bible study guides and 2 of the DVD's (one to 'loan' out in case you miss coming to the PW meeting). If you want a study guide, please let me know so I can insure you have a copy by September. If you subscribe to PW's Horizon magazine, you should have received your bible study guide already. Starting this Fall, Horizon magazine features supplemental study material for the PW Bible Study, that we will incorporate into our PW meetings.

Our September meeting is scheduled for SATURDAY, Sept 23rd at 10 AM in the Multi-Purpose Room. All women are invited to attend. We will have light snacks, do some planning for the year, and start our bible study (there is a short video and then we follow up with discussion). Hope you can join us!

Would you be interested in attending a Women's Retreat? A local Presbyterian church is inquiring whether we would want to join with them on organizing a retreat (usually Friday evening to Sunday morning). I should have more details by our September meeting. We will discuss this then, but let me know ahead of time if this is something you might want to participate in.

Cheryl Elliot, Moderator



What I Did This Summer ...



For the past five years, Barb Overholt has enjoyed the opportunity of organizing the Campbell Artists' Guild's judged annual art show for her fellow artists which is held every August at the Community Gallery on the grounds of the Triton Museum of Art in Santa Clara. The Opening Reception was held on Saturday, August 5 and was filled with lively music, delicious finger food and festive libations as well as an awards

ceremony. Barb was the First and Second Place ribbon recipient for her animal portraits. First Place: "Hangin' Out," Second Place: "The Red Door."



Barb's animal portraits in the Community Gallery.



Linda and Stephen Buckley

Linda and Stephen Buckley spent three days in Iceland followed by a 15-day Viking® Baltic cruise where they visited Norway, Denmark, Germany, Poland, Estonia, Russia, Finland and Sweden. Linda's favorite country was Norway, perhaps because she is 1/8 Norwegian. Iceland was filled with fascinating natural wonders: Alaskan tundra, seismic rifts, huge waterfalls and geysers but it's a very pricey place to be. On the ship's last evening show, Linda performed as a dancing queen with the assistant program director in an ABBA review. Stephen was ecstatic over visiting the VASA battleship in Stockholm which was almost entirely recovered in its original form from the 1700s.

The Paterson Clan traveled to Fiji and became Methodists for a morning where Owen and Mason were invited to take the offering plate, and the Pastor gave the family a blessing. They also visited Vidawa Village to gift the residents with toys, clothes, and supplies.



Owen and Mason with offering plates.



The Paterson family gift toys, clothes, and supplies to the Vidawa Village people.

What I Did This Summer ... (cont.)

The Ngwa Family went to Hawai'i where they visited the USS Battleship Missouri at Pearl Harbor, the Polynesian Cultural Center (reminded them of Cameroon because of the banana and taro plants), the Dole Plantation (world's largest pineapple plantation), and Diamond Head where they hiked (really hiked). Miya was the most energetic and enthusiastic hiker!



*Emmanuel, Miya, Teke, Claris
at the beautiful Polynesian Cultural Center.*



The Manley Family – While at Mike's family reunion in Alabama, the family visited many places.

Kate, Brandon, Emily and Alex stand alongside the statue of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. erected by the citizens of Birmingham, Alabama.

Horace and Lynn Hines spent two weeks in Sicily through Overseas Adventure Travel who specialize in small group travel with 12-16 travelers in a group. The Hines visited a plethora of Greek and Roman ruins, beautiful Roman mosaics, the WWII Allied Landings in Sicily Museum, magnificent churches, rode the very narrow streets of Modica in a Fiat 500, and hiked up Mt. Etna. They even took a cooking class where Lynn's group won for their Parmigiana.



Lynn and Horace with their Fiat 500.

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 June 28 - August 10, 2017, 23 people were assisted; 18 people received food and 13 people received bus tokens. Kristie was able to honor requests for 1 gift card.

Food donations totaled 443 lbs. Thank you for donations from STHPC: 105 lbs. and St. Julie's: 216 lbs.

*The Deacons
and the Church & World Committee*

SESSION NOTES/VISIBILITY

Session Notes from July:

1) PCUSA has new hymnals out. Session has approved this purchase. There will be a New Hymnal Designated Fund, with donations from the congregations, created to replace our old hymnals with the new Glory to God hymnals. Each person donating will be able to dedicate a hymnal.

Visibility Update:

- 1) Banners have been refreshed.
- 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

8/27 Ashley Fitzgerald
9/3 Rebecca Elliot
9/10 Nan Brown
9/17 Alfred Morikang
9/24 Ashley Fitzgerald
10/1 Rebecca Elliot



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.

Marylyn Morikang, Children's Ed Elder



Income and Expenses

	July 2017 Month to Date	Through 7/17 Year to Date
Income	\$25,674	\$184,829
Expense	\$22,697	\$181,374
Net Income	\$2,977	\$3,455



Reasons to Celebrate!

Birthdays

Sept. 9	Brandon Manley, Cathy Warrick Hersh Brown
Sept. 12	Mary Paterson
Sept. 13	June McCullough
Sept. 17	Rebecca Elliot Rick Needham
Sept. 21	Claire McFeely
Sept. 28	Geoffrey Elliot

Anniversaries

Sept. 1	Dave and Carol Robertson
Sept. 17	Rick and Laura Needham

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

Sun, Sept. 10

@ 9 AM

Homecoming Breakfast

@ 10 AM

Worship Service

Sat. Oct. 7

Session Retreat



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: September 26

for October Newsletter

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

Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church

5370 Snell Ave.

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Phone: 408-629-5906

**Annual
Homecoming
Sunday**



Sunday, September 10, 2017

Breakfast 9:00 AM

Worship 10:00 AM

(see pg 5 for details)