

# Echoes from the Hills

Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church • San Jose, California



## COOP'S CORNER

### *Gratitude and Lent*

This month begins our Stewardship campaign for 2018. The theme is “GRATITUDE” and you will be hearing more about this as the month moves forward.

Certainly we should be grateful for all that God has done and continues to do in our lives. Sometimes, though, we get so busy with “life” that we fail to see the hand and footprints of God that are present everywhere, if we take the time to look.

God is in and around us all the time. God provides for us, extends unconditional grace to us and is interested in us ... because God loves us – even more than you love your children. That is hard for me to get my arms around, but that doesn't make it any less true.

So, we are inviting you to express your gratitude by supporting the ministries of this church with your time, talents, and treasures. Not because you have to, but hopefully because you want to.

Look for a letter in the mail (I know, so old school) explaining our campaign and how you can participate.

The month of February also features the beginning of Lent - the six weeks leading up to Easter. This year Lent begins, as always, with Ash Wednesday, which just happens to fall on February 14<sup>th</sup>, Valentine's Day – kind of fitting, don't you think?

In order to accommodate more people, similar to last year, we will have a self-directed, meditative Ash Wednesday service. The church will be open from 7:00 a.m. till 7:00 p.m. We invite you to come at whatever time is convenient to you. I will be available to mark your head or hand with the imposition of ashes from 7:00 a.m. till 1:00 p.m. and from 4:00 p.m. till 7:00 p.m. Ashes will be available at the front of the sanctuary if you are here at other times or wish to impose the ashes yourself.

We will also be having a very special Maundy Thursday and Good Friday service, plus both Easter Sunrise and our Traditional Easter service – details to follow.

One other important announcement. I will be holding a Lenten bible study class on the six Wednesdays of Lent (February 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, and 28<sup>th</sup>) at 6:30 p.m. AND the six Friday's (February 23<sup>rd</sup>, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>) at noon for those who don't like to go out at night.

I am still evaluating different Lenten studies, but I promise I will pick one that you will enjoy. Okay, I can't actually promise that, but I do promise that I will pick one that I will enjoy – and I hope you do too! Look for information in your bulletin as well as Constant Contact.

We are entering a very busy time in our church year, and yet I hope that you will be able to slow down and see the hand of God all around you and in you.

Be blessed my friends, and I will see you on Sunday (and maybe even Wednesday evenings and/or Fridays at noon!)

*Pastor Tom*

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## CHURCH AND WORLD MINISTRY

### Alternative Christmas

On behalf of the Church and World Ministry, I would like to thank you all for your generous support of our "Alternative Christmas" projects. We are very grateful and overwhelmed with the love shown by our congregation. We raised over \$4,700 total for our three projects. You supported the orphanage in Cameroon with donations of \$1,760. Thanks to your contribution, the Youth Group raised \$1,565 to help provide seeds, animals, and training for a community farm. Another \$1,455 will go to help ease the transition of refugees at Immanuel House, as they move into their new lives. What a great way to close our 2017.

### Faith in Action



We are embracing change, and increased opportunities for community involvement, as we ease into 2018. In previous years "Faith In Action" was a theme we used for a single weekend of service. But at

Santa Teresa Hills, our faith is always in action. This year, "Faith In Action" will be a different service opportunity each month. We want to offer every member of this congregation the opportunity to be involved. Love to be outside working with your hands? We'll have something, for you. Prefer something a little less strenuous? We'll have something for you, too. To kick this off, in February, we will be making placemats, for KAIROS Prison Ministries. Join us after church on February 11 in the Fellowship Hall and lend a "hand" making placemats. All we need from you is your time, and a little artistic expression. Your involvement will let prisoners know that they are not forgotten, and the world has not given up on them. We will be having both savory and sweet treats in the Fellowship Hall after Worship to go along with our activity.

Stay tuned for announcements regarding future activities. Have an idea for a service project? Bring it to your Church and World Team.

*Mike Manley, Church & World Ministry Elder*

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## STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

I am grateful to you all for what you have done with your time, talent and treasure. Thank you for your continued support our church community. You have answered the call during the stewardship campaign month. Above all else, your support has been an ongoing commitment as manifested during the request for special offerings, clean up campaigns of our church premises, requests for liturgists, ushers, and a Sunday school helper. These are just a few of the many hands that continue to make our church family special.

Our 2018 stewardship campaign will begin February 4 and culminate with Celebration Sunday on February 25. I am requesting, as I have done in the past, that you prayerfully think about what you can contribute in the giving of your time, talents and treasures. It is a decision that is made between each and every one of us individually with our creator in heaven. Our theme for this month is Gratitude.

Thank you!

*Emmanuel Ngwa, Stewardship Ministry Elder*

# Worship and Music Barb Overholt • Elder



*Rev Jennifer Bales*

We were pleased to welcome Rev. Jennifer Bales on December 31 to provide God's Word with her uplifting sermon, "God's Grace and the New Year." Our scripture text was from Genesis 1:26-27, 31 and Romans 6:12-14. To add to our worship experience were Debbie and Hugh McDevitt who performed a duet with "Strange Way to Save the World" for our offertory time. Elder Marylyn Goode was our Liturgist.



*Elder Marylyn Goode*



*Debbie and Hugh McDevitt*



*On January 7, your STHPC Staff were presented with bonus checks in appreciation for their outstanding service. L-R: Libby Souter (Finance), Rachele Morin-Ponce (Nursery Supervisor), Kristie Reed (Administrator), Tiffany Shi (Musical Accompanist), and Hugh McDevitt (Choir Director). **Pastor Tom** (not pictured) received his bonus as a free will offering from the congregation.*

**Thank You to those who were Ushers in January:** Laurie Boggs, Bill and Sharon Simmons, Emily and Mike Manley.

**Thank You to those who led us in worship in January:** Cheryl Elliot, Barb Overholt, Yvonne Miller.

And, many thanks to those individuals who, at the last minute, stepped up to answer the call as Offertory Ushers and Communion Servers. You know who you are and are much appreciated!



## Heavenly Warblers

Interested in joining the choir? It's a great way to get to know one another! We are friendly and welcoming, and invite you to join us **Thursday evenings at 7:30 p.m.** All current choir members and first-timers, please arrive about 15 minutes early to pick up your music.



## FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

Many people celebrated Pastor Tom's 16 years at STHPC on January 13. Everyone enjoyed the appetizers and ice cream sundae bar, but the real treat was the karaoke! Hits from the 60's, 70's and 80's were performed by many, but the highlights of the night were Emmanuel Ngwa, Bob Toche and Alex Manley. Not to be outdone by others Pastor Tom sang throughout the night.

Thanks to our artist Barb Overholt for the card. It's hanging on Tom's office door if you would still like to sign it.

*Lynn Hines, Fellowship  
Ministry Elder*



Thanks to Edith Sona and the Fellowship Team for bringing snacks in January. Thanks also to the Elliotts and others who cleaned up. Our church wouldn't be the same friendly, welcoming place without you!

*Treat Schedule for February/March - Sign up at the  
Activity Table*



Feb. 4	Emmanuel Ngwa
Feb. 11	Church & World/Fellowship
Feb. 17	Cheryl Elliot
Feb. 25	Celebration Sunday!

March 4	open
March 11	open

## CHILDREN'S ED MINISTRY

For the next 6 months, the Sunday school lessons will be designed to match Pastor Tom's sermons. This means that both children and parents will have the opportunity to share their thoughts and reflect on the sermon/lesson after every church services. I encourage parents to take some time to reflect with their kids on the lessons for each Sunday, that way the teachings of the gospel can be reinforced to the kids. Miyah Ngwa will continue to assist in Sunday until she transitions to the youth class.

### Sunday School Teachers and Helpers

Date	Teacher	Helper #1	Helper #2
February 4	Marilyn Morikang	Yolanda Wu	Miyah Ngwa
February 11	Cheryl Elliot	TBD	Miyah Ngwa
February 18	Claris Ngwa	Lynn Hines	Miyah Ngwa
February 25	DeLynn Coop	Emmanuel Ngwa	Miyah Ngwa
March 4	Marilyn Morikang	Yolanda Wu	Miyah Ngwa
March 11	Cheryl Elliot	TBD	Miyah Ngwa

*Marilyn Morikang,  
Children's Ed Elder*

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

At the PWP (Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery) Epiphany Tea on Sunday, January 7 Glenda Nolt and Cheryl Elliot received Honorary Life Memberships in Presbyterian Women. They each received a certificate and a silver pin symbolizing their faithful service to PW and the church. Rosaleen Zisch, the PWP moderator, also gave them an angel ornament and flowers for their work. - Cathy Warrick

I thank Cathy Warrick and Linda Buckley for doing all the work to make this special event happen. - Cheryl



January 20 from 10 AM - noon, was our monthly PW meeting. We enjoyed fresh baked goodies from Cathy Warrick. We jumped into lesson four of our PW 'Cloud of Witnesses' bible study which talked about the community of God's Messengers. Hebrews 13:2 says "Some have entertained angels unawares" suggesting that we may have encountered God's messengers without knowing it. The book of Hebrews encourages us to not to ignore strangers, as you never know if they might be an angel bringing a message of hope, comfort or protection, etc. Life is sometimes thought of as nearly missed events from which angels are protecting us. But we should also consider that life is a series of nearly missed messages from angels who are all around us. Sometimes we fail to get the message if we don't open ourselves up to strangers and friends alike.

Our next PW meeting will be Saturday, February 17 at 10 AM. We will start making plans for our annual Women's Service and look at lesson five of our bible study - "In Community with the Tradition of the Past". Hope you can join us! Lastly - save the date Saturday, March 17. This is the PWP's Spiritual Nurture Retreat. Carolyn Foster (author, coach, counselor and professor) will guide us in promoting more authentic and joyful lives using many tools. More information to come later.

*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! This month's featured item is Cup 'O Noodles, Mac 'n Cheese and soup (not veggie or lentil.)

**Monthly summary:** Between 1/4/18-1/26/18 - 20 people were assisted; 18 people received food and 9 people received bus tokens. Kristie was able to honor requests for 1 backpack.

Food donations totaled 258 lbs. Thank you for donations from STHPC: 53 lbs., St. Julie's: 205 lbs.

*The Deacons  
and the Church & World Committee*

## ADULT ED MINISTRY

As we begin a new year, 2018, remember to take time to look into God's word. You have many opportunities to do this outside of Sunday worship time. There is the Upper Room booklet, out on the table on Sundays or in the Office. The publication contains a daily scripture, a thought, a focus and a prayer. In the Sunday morning bulletin there is a weekly Bible study to reflect on during the week. Online there is access to the lectionary, with daily and weekly scriptures to read and study.

Here is a quick look at "Unfailing love". Read Psalm 33.

- What does verse 5 say to you?
- How is life on earth full of love?
- Read verse 3. What does unfailing love mean to you?
- How do we trust and hope in the Lord?

How can we reflect God's love? Think about that this month and try to be a reflection of that amazing, forgiving, nourishing, inclusive, illuminating and giving love.

*Carol Miller, Adult Ed Elder*

## Nursery Attendants

2/4 Ashley Fitzgerald  
2/11 Nan Brown  
2/18 Rebecca Elliot  
2/25 Ashley Fitzgerald  
3/4 Rebecca Elliot  
3/11 Nan Brown  
3/27 Ashley Fitzgerald  
3/25 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.**

*Marifly Morikang, Children's Ed Elder*



## Income and Expenses

	December 2017 Month to Date	Through 12/17 Year to Date
Income	\$28,095	\$302,557
Expense	\$26,182	\$311,557
Net Income	\$1,913	-\$8,851



## Reasons to Celebrate!

### Birthdays

February 1	Philmon Mosi,
February 2	Chelsea Cunningham
February 3	Stephen Buckley, Laura Davis
February 15	Caydance Cunningham
February 18	Vivian Harley
February 21	Carol Miller
February 22	Cheryl Elliot
February 23	Kate Manley
February 24	Alex Manley
February 25	Pat Judge
February 27	Kelsey Hines
March 3	Injoh Tanwani
March 5	Ruth LeBas
March 12	Nathan McArthur
March 16	Vern Tegger, Caryl Brown
	Linda Buckley, Bill Simmons, Ryan Njinda

### Anniversaries

March 10 Emmanuel & Claris Ngwa

### 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
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

- Feb. 4  
3:00 PM - end  
Super Bowl Party in the Fellowship Hall  
(please bring a finger food & something to drink to share)
- Feb. 4 - Feb. 25  
Stewardship Campaign
- Feb. 11  
Faith-in-Action KAIROS project - after worship
- Feb. 14  
Ash Wednesday
- Feb. 25  
Stewardship Celebration Sunday - after worship
- March 18  
Congregational meeting after worship
- Lenten Bible Study -  
Wed. Feb. 21 - Feb. 28 @ 6:30 PM  
repeated Fridays at noon Feb. 23 - March 30

*Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church,  
The Reverend Tom Coop, Pastor*  
[www.sthpc.org](http://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 7  
for March/April Newsletter  
email your information to Lynn Hines at  
[not57@sbcglobal.net](mailto:not57@sbcglobal.net)**

Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church  
5370 Snell Ave.  
San Jose, CA 95123

Phone: 408-629-5906

Faith-in-Action February  
February 11 after worship



come make placemats for Pastor  
Tom's KAIROS ministry

