

# Echoes from the Hills

Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church • San Jose, California



## COOP'S CORNER

## HAPPY NEW YEAR!

It's a new year. Yea! For some of you, it being a new year is a relief – you'd just soon forget last year. For others of you, you hope this year will be as good as the one just passed. Regardless, most of us look forward to a better year this year than last.

And Santa Teresa Hills is no different. We had our ups and downs last year. We had a number of maintenance items that ate into our budget. And we said goodbye to some very special people in our lives, either through death or from moving out of the area. They will be missed, but not forgotten.

We can also look back and celebrate the excitement, the energy, and the spirit that fills this place. We can rejoice that some new folks have joined our ranks, that we also have a new choir director and a new pianist/accompanist, both very accomplished in their respective fields, that we are financially stable, and that our Sanctuary, while not physically full, continues to be full of the spirit on Sunday mornings.

Yes, we are truly blessed, my friends. And, this year is going to be even better. I promise! But it will take all of us. To that end, might I make one suggestion? I know that the phrase "What would Jesus do?" is probably overused, but it is also most assuredly under-practiced.

How would our lives (and the life of this church) be different if we had that question at the foundation of all our actions? Would we treat visitors to our church differently? Would we treat one another differently? Would the decisions we made and the actions we took be any different? Would we love God better and love one another better? I would hope so. How about we try it? I will. And then let's see what happens.

It is my prayer that all of us might experience God's grace, love, peace, and joy in rich abundance this year and that our lives will reflect that love in all we do.

Be blessed, my friends, and I hope to see you on Sunday and then the next and the next after that!

**Happy New Year!**

*Pastor Tom*

# Worship and Music Barb Overholt • Elder

## First Sunday of Advent December 3



*Advent Candle Lighters  
Barb Overholt and Dottie Simerly*



We were blessed to have Rev. George Minerva provide God's Word in Pastor Tom's absence on December 3. Rev. Minerva's sermon "Make the Mountains Tremble for Me" was based on scripture from Mark 13:24-37 and Isaiah 64:1-9, and was thought provoking, inspirational and engaging.

## Second Sunday of Advent • December 10



*Our Cameroon Choir provided our Introit "See In Yonder Manger Low," our Offertory "He Came Down That We May Have Life," and our Anthem "Once In Royal David's City." Always a wonderful sound and beat!*



*Elder Marilyn Morikang  
led us in worship.*



*Advent Candle Lighters  
Nancy Chesterton and Beverly Toulouse*



*Deacon Joy Lee thanked our congregation for its help in making the 11th Annual Community Christmas Dinner for the less fortunate among us a success.*



## Second Sunday of Advent • December 10 (cont.)

### Children's Christmas Pageant

*Through the Eyes of the Angels* • Written by Carol Miller



#### Thank You Ushers

**For December:** Jerry and Carol Miller, Horace and Lynn Hines, Laurie Boggs, DeLynn Coop, Barb Overholt, Dave Robertson, Paul and Cheryl Elliot, Bill and Sharon Simmons.

#### Thank You Worship Leaders

**For December:** Cheryl Elliot, Marilyn Morikang, Barb Overholt, Paul Elliot, Marylyn Goode, Harlan Otter.



#### 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.



# Decorating the Tree





## Third Sunday of Advent • December 17



*Advent Candle Lighters (L-R):  
Rogan, Libby, Ross and Rhona Souter*

*Caroling Around  
The Piano*



## Fourth Sunday of Advent • December 24 Christmas Eve • 10:00 a.m. Service



*Advent Candle Lighters  
Jerry and Carol Miller*



*Scripture Readers  
Hugh McDevitt (left)  
and Paul Elliot*



## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service • 7:30 p.m.



*Advent Candle Lighters  
Marilyn, Aiden, Alma and Alfred Morikang*

Special acknowledgement to Lead Soprano **Cathy Williams** for her contribution to our special music in performing “Ave Maria.” And, to those who stepped up at the last minute to help with offertory, serving communion, and other special needs – a grateful thank you from Barb Overholt.

## Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 11:00 p.m.



*Tiffany Shi and Harlan Otter play a piano duet "Winter Dream Song" for the Introit.*

A special thank you to **Harlan Otter** for performing his specially selected music, "Christmas Meditation," and "Schubert's Ave Maria" which added greatly to our worship experience.



*Advent Candle Lighters  
The Coop and  
Keathley Families*

### PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



*L-R:*

*Joy Lee, Vicky O'Hara, Carol Miller*

### STHPC Women's Christmas Lunch

STHPC's women were invited to attend a Christmas lunch on Sunday afternoon, December 10 at Barb Overholt's home to celebrate the season and fellowship with a Togo's lunch set up by Cheryl Elliot. Everyone brought cookies to exchange and there were even little gift mementoes that were exchanged. Thank you, Cheryl, for organizing this fun event!



*L-R: Glenda Nolt, DeLynn Coop,  
Caryl Brown, Lynn Hines,  
Dottie Simerly*

The Presbyterian Women's Epiphany Tea with the theme of 'Nurturing the Caring Community' will be held at Stone Church of Willow Glen on Sunday, January 7 from 2 - 4 PM. 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. Car pools will be available leaving from STHPC (let Cheryl Elliot know if you need a ride).

Saturday, January 20 from 10 AM - noon, will be our monthly PW meeting. We will meet in the STHPC Multi-Purpose Room and will be doing our fourth session of our bible study covering Hebrews. I still have some of the Hebrews bible study guides available. If one of your New Year's resolutions is to strengthen your faith, it's not too late to pick up a guide and join us on the journey through Hebrews either on your own or at our monthly PW meetings.

Many thanks to all that purchased nuts during our Fall Fundraiser. We made \$450 in profits. We will discuss at our next PW meeting where at STHPC and/or in our local community, we would like to use these funds.

## ADULT ED MINISTRY

### We three kings... Read Matthew 2: 1-15

- Who came asking for the King of Jews?
- What sign was given to find the king?
- A ruler was to come who was a \_\_\_\_\_ to the people.
- What was Herod's plan?
- What gifts did the wise men bring?
- How did Jesus end up in Egypt?

### Gifts that you may receive and that keep on giving: (What a joy to receive these gifts!)

Tell when and how you have received these gifts or tell how you have seen these in others:

Forgiveness	Love	Grace
Kindness	Salvation	Light
Spirit	Hope	Giving
Praise		

### Pray:

**Lord, Father of all gifts, thank you for the great measure of gifts you lay before us. Help us to use these gifts for your great purpose. Direct our steps. In Christ name, Amen**

**List other gifts you have to use to lead people to God. Use them.**

*Carol Miller, Adult Ed Ministry Elder*

## CHILDREN'S ED MINISTRY

### Sunday school Teachers and Helpers

Date	Lead Teacher	SS Helper
1/7	Clariss Ngwa Theme: Jesus is Baptized; Mark 1: 9 - 11	Yolanda Wu
1/14	TBD Theme: God Knows Me; Psalm 139	TBD
1/21	DeLynn Coop Theme: Hearing God's Call; Mark 1: 14-20	Emmanuel Ngwa
1/28	Lynn Hines Theme: Jesus Heals Many; Mark 1: 21-34	Marilyn Morikang
2/4	Marilyn Morikang Theme: Jesus Prays; Mark 1: 35-39	Yolanda Wu

Thank you Miyah Ngwa for being a helper each week!. We really appreciate it!

*Marilyn Morikang, Children's Ed Ministry Elder*

## YOUTH MINISTRY

Happy holidays from the youth! It's been a busy Advent Season for the Youth.

- We sponsored the Alternative Giving PCUSA Farm Bundle this year. Thank you for your support of our campaign.
- In December the Youth and Sunday School kids participated in the Christmas play, written by Carol Miller. A special thank you to all that helped with rehearsals and the day of the performance.  
We also created items for the craft table at the Deacons dinner which was December 9. Thank you Pearl and Rhona for manning the table.
- The youth dog toys for the shelter will be dropped off in January to the Monterey road shelter.

Have a blessed New Year!

*Kate Manley, Youth Ministry Elder*

## BUILDINGS & GROUNDS

- A big thank-you to the Boy Scouts for performing a Service Day for us on December 9. They cleaned out the gutters, washed all the windows and swept up. Please thank them if you see them.
- Repairs: Repaired broken plumbing (water shutoff valve, loose toilet attachment).
- Replaced two broken electrical outlets in the multi-purpose room. Replaced broken fluorescent lights ballasts.
- Obtaining a quote to re-level the courtyard brick pavers (tripping hazard).

*Dave Robertson, B & G Ministry Elder*





Come  
Celebrate  
Pastor  
Tom's  
16th



Anniversary  
at STHPC

Saturday, January 13, 2018 from 7 - 9 PM  
in the Fellowship Hall

Karaoke and games for the entire family!

Please bring an appetizer to share.  
Ice cream sundae bar and drinks provided.

Please sign up at the Activity Table.



# Community Christmas Dinner

Saturday, December 9, 2017



# Helping Hands



PLEASE HELP  
US HELP OTHERS  
WHO STRUGGLE TO  
SUPPORT AND  
FEED THEIR  
FAMILIES

**Requested items:** Cans of fruit and cans of soup, cans of vegetables, chili, canned meats, peanut butter & jelly, pasta & pasta sauce, and boxes of macaroni & cheese. Flip-top cans are appreciated by many!

**Monthly summary:** Between Nov. 21 and January 2, 2018; 31 people were assisted; 22 people received food and 8 people received bus tokens. Kristie was able to honor requests for 2 gift cards. One person received cash.

Food donations totaled only 65 lbs. Thank you for those donations from STHPC.

*The Deacons  
and the Church & World Committee*

*Thanks to Evelyn Morikang and Rhona and Libby Souter for bringing snacks in December. Thanks also to those who cleaned up. 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*



## Nursery Attendants

1/7 Rebecca Elliot  
1/14 Nan Brown  
1/21 Ashley Fitzgerald  
1/28 Rebecca Elliot  
2/4 Ashley Fitzgerald



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.

*Marilyn Morikang, Children's Ed Elder*



## Income and Expenses

	Nov. 2017 Month to Date	Through 11/17 Year to Date
Income	\$21,721	\$273,113
Expense	\$27,738	\$283,746
Net Income	-\$6,017	-\$10,633

## VISIBILITY/ SESSION NOTES

- At the December meeting Session voted to give year end bonuses to Kristie, Church Administrator; Hugh, Choir Director; Tiffany, Accompanist; Rachele, Nursery Supervisor; Lilia, Church Custodian and Libby, Church Treasurer. A free will offering was taken for Pastor Tom.
- STHPC has an ad in the South Valley Revies for 1 year. The ad can be changed throughout the year.

*Bill Simmons, Visibility Ministry Elder*





# Reasons to Celebrate!

## Birthdays

January 1	Monica Haney, Mona Johnson
January 4	Epie Sona
January 5	Mary Jane Judge,
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 31	Jerry McMinn

## Anniversaries

January 19	Ruth and Howard LeBas
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
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

- Jan. 13 Pastor Tom's 16 Anniversary  
7 - 9 PM Party in the Fellowship Hall  
(see info pg. 7)
- Feb. 4 - Feb. 25 Stewardship Campaign
- Feb. 25 Stewardship Celebration  
Sunday - after worship



*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: January 20**

**for February 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



Come celebrate our Superhero!  
Pastor Tom's 16th Anniversary at STHPC  
Saturday, January 13 7 - 9 PM  
see details on page 8.