

Echoes from the Hills

Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church • San Jose, California



COOP'S CORNER

"Death and Taxes"

Ah, tis the season. I hope your tax preparation has gone better than mine. I have spent over five hours on three separate phone calls battling my tax program people to solve what I thought was a simple issue of uploading an amended 2016 return. Apparently, it wasn't for them! Suffice it to say, I was not pleased. It has been a horror story of epic proportions.

Now, I have to say I don't mind paying taxes. It provides me with many of the protections and opportunities that I wouldn't have otherwise. I just wish there was a simpler way of figuring them all out and filing them. Enough of my complaining. Too bad I didn't write this article yesterday or next week.

Okay, enough about that. How about dying? Well, we are in the midst of Lent and approaching Holy Week, and part of that is realizing our own mortality and the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus made on our behalf.

We are preparing some meaningful Lent and Holy Week services that I hope you all will attend. First there is my Lenten Sermon series on the "Five Love Languages." I know that understanding my wife's love languages was one of the most important discoveries for my marriage. Come and get a quiz that will let you know what yours and your loved ones are so you too can better relate to those you care about.

I am also leading a Lenten book study on doubt. Some of us meet for dinner at 6:00 p.m. at Aquí and then wander over to the book study at 7:00 PM in the office. Or you can join me on Fridays at noon. It will broaden your horizons and give you a chance to experience a variety of viewpoints. So far, the sessions have been FANTASTIC! If I do say so myself.

Then, I hope you will come and participate in our Holy Week services. It is disappointing to me that we have so few people try our Maundy Thursday or Good Friday services. The Worship and Music committee and I put in a great deal of effort to making those services meaningful. I really hope that you attend this year.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday will both begin at 7:30 PM and be held in the Sanctuary. As with anything I do, it is always subject to change.

On Easter, which happens to be on April Fool's Day this year, we will have two services – one at 6:30 AM and one at 10:00 AM. I find the Easter Sunrise (6:30 AM service) to be particularly moving. (And

we go out for breakfast afterwards!) The 10:00 AM service will feature our choir and the flowering of the cross – which, when it is completed, is just simply gorgeous.

We may have to pay taxes and we may have to die ... however that is NEVER the end of the story. Because of a loving God, we don't have to worry (as long as we attend the Holy Week services – JUST KIDDING!).

All God asks is that we love him with all our heart, mind, and strength AND that we love one another. You can do that right?

And best of all God's program is completely free and has NO BUGS in it ... and he is available to us 24/7.

A pretty good deal, if you ask me.

Pastor Tom

CHURCH AND WORLD MINISTRY

Faith in Action

Thank you to all who stayed after church on February 11th in support of our first Faith in Action project, KAIROS Prison Ministry. You cut out and decorated your handprints, and expressed your inner-artists by creating beautiful and inspirational placemats, and hand prints. Pastor Tom took these to the prison in Salinas. The handprints were strung around the dining hall for all to see. The placemats were used at meals, and showed the prisoners that there is a world outside those prison walls, and that world has people who care. Thank you also to Cathy Warrick and the Fellowship Ministry Team for providing snacks to fuel the artists.

If you missed this opportunity to be involved, or are ready for the next Faith in Action project, we have something for everyone in April.

- **April 7: Santa Maria Urban Ministry**, 778 S. Almaden Ave, from 9 AM - Noon. SMUM needs our assistance in their pantry, and preparing the labels for a newsletter (sitting job). Minimum age is 15 years old. Parking is limited, so please consider carpooling from the church. This is an underserved organization, in need of assistance. The sign-up sheet is on the Activity Table.
- **April 22: Mobile Food Pack** for www.food4others.org. This event needs 20 volunteers to pack meals for hungry people around the world. It's from 1 PM – 3 PM at the Elks Lodge, 444 W Alma Ave, San



Jose. This event is always **lots of fun**, and slots fill up fast. Standing and sitting jobs available. For you fashion mavens - **Free Hairnets!** The sign-up sheet is on the Activity Table.

- **Also April 22: Crop Hunger Walk**, sponsored by Church World Service. This walk is from 1:30 – 3:00 PM-ish starting from Herbert Hoover Middle School, 1635 Park Ave, San Jose. Want to be outside and moving around? Consider the Crop Walk. Distances for all energy levels and a dog friendly event. See Cheryl Elliot for details. Please consider a cash donation to the STHPC team whether you walk or not!

Hope to see you out at one or more events!
“... and they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.”

Mike Manley, Church & World Ministry Elder

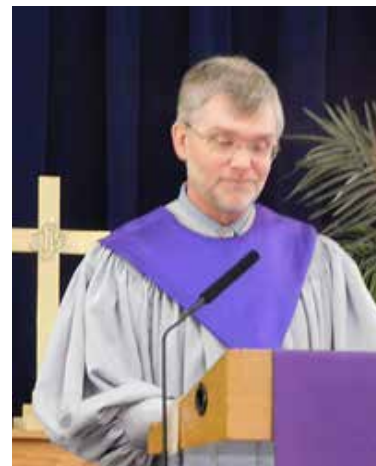
Worship and Music Barb Overholt • Elder



*Hugh McDevitt as musician
and choir director*

What Talent We Have Among Us

It never ceases to amaze me how talented our congregation is! Choir Director Hugh McDevitt not only writes beautiful spirituals such as "I Love Your House" which the choir sang on February 18 but he played bongos as well. He literally played musical chairs as he also lead us in worship that morning. Thank you, Hugh, for sharing your many gifts with us!



Hugh McDevitt as liturgist.

Celebration Sunday!



**SWEETS
GALORE!**

Worship and Music

It takes a village to prepare and present a worship service every week. From our pastor's sermon preparation, talented choir and director, very accomplished musical accompanist, church administrator, ushers and liturgists, offertory ushers and communion servers, sound booth operator. From preparing the sanctuary to closing up, there are even more people behind the scenes making the worship experience possible.

Please join me in thanking those who offer their time and talent in leading our church family in quality worship each week. If you are interested in being a liturgist or an usher, please contact Barb Overholt.

Thank You to Our Ushers in February and March:

Laurie Boggs, Barb Overholt, Dave Robertson, DeLynn Coop, Marilyn Morikang, Horace and Lynn Hines, Jay Hartley, Emily Manley.

Thank You to Our Liturgists in February and March:

Edith Sona, Paul Elliot, Hugh McDevitt, Marylyn Goode, Horace Hines, Barb Overholt, Yvonne Miller, Dave Robertson.



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.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

March 25 • Palm Sunday

March 29

Maundy Thursday Service • 7:30 p.m.

March 30

Good Friday Service • 7:30 p.m.

April 1

Easter Sunrise Service • 6:30 a.m.

Easter Celebration Service • 10:00 a.m.

April 8 • Holy Humor Sunday

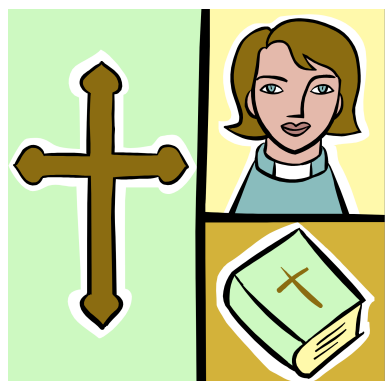
ADULT ED MINISTRY

The Sunday morning bulletin *Bible Study* insert continues to allow for study at home.

God calls us to make *connections* which give our lives new meaning and draw us closer to Him. We hope that members and friends look into

the Bible and let the scriptures help us discover ourselves with God's help.

Pastor Tom is leading a Lenten study on doubt - *The Value of Doubt*, a time where we connect our faith to the doubt that makes us grow. Watch for more opportunities to grow in faith - do, pray, share, sing, read, help, celebrate. Spring is a good time to grow your faith.



The Lord's Call - Read Acts 9:1-19

- How did Saul feel about the disciples?
- As he came near Damascus, who called him?
- Why did Ananias react to God's call?
- What was God's plan for Ananias and Paul?
- When have you had your eyes opened?
- How did God cleanse Saul for his journey?

Continue to read what happens next. Watch for what the Lord is calling you to. Pray about that.

Carol Miller, Adult Ed Elder

CHILDREN'S ED MINISTRY

The Children have been preparing for Lent with lessons designed around Parables.

Sunday School Teachers and Helpers

<u>date</u>	<u>teacher</u>	<u>helper</u>
3/25	DeLynn Coop	TBD
4/1	Lynn Hines	TBD
4/8	Cheryl Elliot	TBD
4/15	Marilyn Morikang	TBD
4/22	Lynn Hines	Marilyn Morikang
4/29	DeLynn Coop	TBD
5/6	Marilyn Morikang	Yolanda Wu

As you can see, we could use more helpers and/or teachers. If you're available please contact me.

Marilyn Morikang, Children's Ed Elder

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS MINISTRY

Buildings and Grounds partnered with Church and World on Saturday, March 10 to work around the church. Trees and bushes were planted, irrigation was fixed, trees were trimmed; doors were repaired; carpet was cleaned; books were organized and closets were cleaned and organized. Twenty - yes, twenty people pooled their efforts to get all of this work done.

Thank you to Jay Hartley, Mary and Alex Paterson and their sons Owen and Mason, Barry Pumphrey, Barb Overholt, Carol and Jerry Miller, Horace and Lynn Hines, Marilyn Morikang (and Alma and Aiden who really were a help!) Cheryl and Paul Elliot, Dave Robertson, Tom Coop, Mike Manley and Sharon and Bill Simmons.

The following day after worship Pastor Tom blessed our new tree.

Dave Robertson, Building & Grounds Elder

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Saturday, March 17 is PWP's Spiritual Nurture Retreat. Carolyn Foster (author, coach, counselor and professor) will guide us to promote more authentic and joyful lives using many tools. It will be from 9 AM-2:30 PM at Woodhaven, a beautiful historic building that is located on the campus of United Methodist Church, 1420 Newport Ave., on the corner of Minnesota, across the street from the San Jose Library.

Our next STHPC PW meeting will be Tuesday evening March 20 at 7 PM in the multipurpose room. We are now on our sixth lesson of PWP's bible study "Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews". The lesson looks at the Reality of the Present. We will consider how communities of faith support each other during troubled times. The Book of Hebrews was written to a people suffering under persecution so there is great insight to be had. A reminder for those not able to attend the meetings but who would like to partake in this wonderful bible study on their own - we have a DVD available for check out in the PW box in the office and still have some copies of the Bible Study guide.

Cheryl Elliot, Moderator



Helping Hands



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

*This month the Pantry needs
Soup (no tomato or lentil), Spagnetti Sauce,
Cup O' Soup, Mac 'n Cheese, Peanut Butter,
Top Ramen and especially toiletry items as
we are just about out.*

Normally 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 Jan. 28 and March 12, 32 people were assisted; 23 people received food and 21 people received bus tokens. Kristie was able to honor requests for 1 gift card and 1 person received cash.

Food donations totaled 99 lbs. Thank you for donations from STHPC: 72 lbs. and Other: 27 lbs.

*The Deacons
and the Church & World Committee*

Nursery Attendants

3/18 Ashley Fitzgerald
3/25 TBD
4/1 Ashley Fitzgerald
4/8 Rebecca Elliot
4/15 Nan Brown
4/22 Ashley Fitzgerald
4/29 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.

Marilyn Morikang, Children's Ed Elder



Income and Expenses

	February 2018 Month to Date	Through 2/18 Year to Date
Income	\$19,530	\$41,663
Expense	\$24,302	\$45,295
Net Income	-\$4,772	-\$3,632

Thanks to Cathy Warrick, the Congregational Engagement Ministry Team (for treats on Celebration Sunday), the Elliots, and Marylyn Goode for treats in February and March. And special thanks to those who helped clean up!

Treat Schedule for March/April

3/18 Marylyn Goode
3/25 open (Palm Sunday)
4/1 Deacons - Easter
4/8 open (Holy Humor Sunday)
4/15 open
4/22 open
4/29 open



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



Reasons to Celebrate!

Birthdays

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
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

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

Anniversaries

March 10	Emmanuel & Claris Ngwa
April 7	Claire and David McFeely
April 10	Cynthia and John Greene
April 19	Nancy and Gil Chesterton



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
Third Tuesday:	Presbyterian Women at STHPC at 7:00 PM. - every other month
Third Saturday:	Men's Fellowship meets at 8:30 AM in the Multipurpose room. (note new date)
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

Lenten Bible Study continues thru 3/30
Wednesdays @ 7 PM & Fridays @
noon

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday March 25 @ 10 AM

Maundy Thursday March 29 @ 7:30 PM

Good Friday March 30 @ 7:30 PM

EASTER SUNRISE Sunday, April 1 @
6:30 AM

EASTER CELEBRATION Sunday, April 1
@ 10 AM

Faith in Action @ SMUM Sat., April 7

Faith in Action - Feed my Starving Children
Sun., April 22

CROP Walk - Sun., April 22

See pg. 2 for all Faith in Action 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: April 20

for May Newsletter

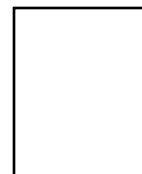
email your information to Lynn Hines at not57@sbcglobal.net

Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church

5370 Snell Ave.

San Jose, CA 95123

Phone: 408-629-5906



Palm Sunday March 25
Maundy Thursday March 29
Good Friday March 30
Easter Sunday April 1

