

Echoes from the Hills

Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church • San Jose, California



COOP'S CORNER

Odds and Ends

I love the month of May. The rains (for the most part) have stopped. Flowers are blooming. The hills are still green. The shade sails are up. And all is good with the world. Okay, that last statement unfortunately is not true.

Regardless, we here at Santa Teresa Hills are moving forward with some new ways to engage and grow our church.

First, starting this month, we are going to highlight 1-3 families each week. Hopefully, we can share a bit about them in the bulletin and then will ask you to pray for them specifically during the week. It won't take too long before all the families/individuals in the church have been highlighted and prayed for. Don't worry, I will check with you first before I put you in the bulletin!

During Lent we had a very successful book study on the subject of faith and doubt. We had over twenty people participate. It was engaging, thought-provoking, spirit deepening, and even a bit entertaining. It was so successful that we decided to do it again – with a different book. Many of us gathered a couple of weeks ago and selected *"The Bible Tells Me So ... Why defending Scripture Has Made Us Unable to Read It"* by Peter Enns. It includes chapters like: "God Did what?!" "Why Doesn't God Make Up His Mind?" "Jesus is Bigger Than the Bible", and many more. I hope that you will attend. We will begin our sessions on May 9th. We will meet, as before, at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and 12 noon on Fridays. Books are only \$10 and scholarships are available if you can't afford to buy one.

Also, over the next few Sundays, you are also going to be getting cards that advertise our congregation. They were designed by our own Barb Overholt and are a great way to invite folks to church in a very welcoming and non-threatening way. It works even with total strangers. We'll be asking you to put them up at stores, etc. around your neighborhood (with permission, of course). But most importantly, giving them to those you come in contact with at work, school, in the coffee shop, etc. I will also be giving you a two-line statement you can make when you hand them out that is inviting and makes it so, so, so easy.

Due to popular demand, I will be setting aside a couple of Sundays after worship to help those who are interested to download the *Givelify* app on their phone. It is very easy to do and makes donating to the church a snap – if you choose to do so. I use it to give to all our special offerings.

Finally, we are in need of a new Youth Director. Kate Manley has been ably filling in during our search. Please thank her for all her dedication and hard work. But she can't do it forever. We have put ads in a variety of sources and have not had any luck. So that's why we need you – to spread the word. It is only a five hour a week job. You get to work with some of the best kids EVER. And we pay \$100 a week. Please let your friends, neighbors, relatives, teachers, etc. know about this important position.

What a great church we have. I am constantly amazed at how dedicated you all are and what great energy you bring every Sunday morning. Please know that I am here for you and look forward to continuing what we started.

May God bless you with health, peace, love, and success! And I look forward to seeing you on Sunday...

Pastor Tom

CHURCH AND WORLD MINISTRY

April was a busy month. Thank you to everyone who lent a hand to help others.

Santa Maria Urban Ministry

Working in the clothes closet, putting out the newsletter and filling pantry food boxes kept 14 people busy on April 6 at SMUM. SMUM is an agency located in downtown San Jose. It provides the local community with a safe, welcoming place for basic services that meet short-term needs, plus educational and targeted services to promote permanent, uplifting transformation. www.santamariasj.org

Food 4Others

Numbers is what we were all about on April 22. 22 STHPCers, packed 22 boxes which made 42,768 meals packed during this 1.5 hour shift. All of this will feed 117 kids for 1 year! Wow! 4others.org



CROP Walk

It was a small walking crew on April 22, but thanks to many people at STHPC \$500 has been raised so far. CROP

Hunger Walks are community-wide events sponsored by Church World Service. These are organized by local congregations or groups to raise funds to end hunger at home and around the world. If you would like to help Cheryl & Paul reach their goal of \$1,000 please see either of them. www.crophungerwalk.org



Faith in Action Continues May 20

Sunday, May 20 after worship we will be writing letters for Bread for the World. In 2018, funding for vital domestic and international anti-hunger and anti-poverty programs is again at risk of deep cuts. Through hand-written letters, we will urge Congress to invest in and protect key programs that help improve the lives of men, women, and children facing hunger and poverty in the United States and around the world. bread.org

Mike Manley, Church & World Ministry Elder

Hosanna! Hosanna in the Highest Heaven!

The congregation joined the Cameroon and Chancel choirs in waving palm fronds for an uplifting and powerful processional from Choir Director Hugh McDevitt's musical score "Palm Sunday Processional." What a festive way to celebrate Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem!



GOOD FRIDAY • *Service of Shadows and Stones*

Thank you to everyone in the Worship and Music Ministry for helping to make our Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter services powerful and memorable!



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 April:

Laurie Boggs, Sally and Jim McClure, Barb Overholt, Dave Robertson, Marilyn Morikang, Bob Toche.

Thank You to Our Liturgists in April:

Barb Overholt, Paul Elliot, Cheryl Elliot.



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.

Usher Training Continues

For those interested in learning the simple art of being an Usher or want to refresh your memory, your Worship and Music Ministry will once again offer training to learn this easy and very important part of our worship services.

Please plan to assemble at the Usher Station next to the kitchen off the sanctuary at 11:30 a.m. on Sundays, May 20 and June 17. Elder Barb Overholt will be on hand to show you how it's all done.

CHILDREN'S ED MINISTRY

I asked Alma Morikang (2nd Grader) to write a few sentences about Sunday School for this month's article. Here's what she had to say; "One thing I like about Sunday School is that we get to read books and talk about Jesus. Another thing I like about Sunday school is doing crafts. The third thing I like about Sunday School is that we get to go outside sometimes. The last thing I like about Sunday School is they make food for the church" (Alma Morikang, 7)

While Alma will quickly say in simple sentences why she likes Sunday School, the truth is teaching Sunday School is truly simple and very easy. Ryan Higginbottom wrote in his article "Don't be Afraid to Teach Children's Sunday School" that not everyone is called into this ministry, but far more are equipped than they think they are. Ryan encourages us to not doubt the calling. Some people think they're not the teacher type. They worry about connecting with children, answering their questions, and handling crises. They're afraid of causing long-term damage. But if you love the children of your church and are willing to serve, you are ready to talk about teaching. You don't need to be perfect. In general, children are resilient and eager to forgive. And your mistakes will be more evident to you than to the five-year-olds.

Sunday School Teachers and Helpers

<u>date</u>	<u>teacher</u>	<u>helper</u>
5/6	Marilyn Morikang	Yolanda Wu
5/13	Cheryl Elliot	DeLynn Coop
5/20	TBA	
5/27	DeLynn Coop	Emily Manley
6/3	Marilyn Morikang	Yolanda Wu
6/10	Cheryl Elliot	
6/17	Lynn Hines	Clariss Ngwa

Marilyn Morikang, Children's Ed Elder

Worship and Music

Women's Worship Sunday *A Special Service in Celebration of the Gifts of Women*

Thank you to the very special women of our church who skillfully presented our worship service on April 22 while Pastor Tom was on study leave. Organizing and spearheading this service was Deacon Cheryl Elliot whose sermon “To Lead with Love – It’s the Right Thing to Do” was co-written by Elder Carol Miller. The congregation was also blessed to have child prodigy Ethan Li at the piano for our Prelude, and Introit accompanying the Women’s Chorus directed by Hugh McDevitt. Tiffany Shi provided our Postlude at the piano.



Cathy Warrick



Marylyn Goode



Joy Lee



Ethan Li



Cathy Williams



Barbara Overholt



Cheryl Elliot



NEW MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Jim & Sally moved to San Jose from SoCal, having lived there their entire lives. They grew up in the Santa Monica Bay area and were married 51 years ago at Pacific Palisades Presbyterian Church, Sally's home church. They have 2 sons who are married and each has 2 children, the oldest lives here in Willow Glen area, which drew them to San Jose. The other lives in Kansas City, MO. (They can fly there for visits but not to live full time-especially in the winter!).

Jim worked in the mutual fund industry and Sally taught preschool and worked for a dentist before moving to Orange County 35 years ago, when she became a stay at home mom. Their previous church was Placentia Presbyterian where they were active in several ministries (soup kitchen, developmentally disabled, weekly Bible study and youth groups etc.)

Now they spend most of their time settling into a whole new area and making new friends. They enjoy boating, gardening, traveling and Jim has been a ham radio operator for over 60 years. A friend mentioned that the closest Presbyterian Church he knew of was Santa Teresa Hills. After visiting other churches closer to the Villages where they live, they looked up STHPC on the Internet, and the rest is history. They are most appreciative of your warm welcome, which made them feel right at home in addition to Tom's inspiring messages.



WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

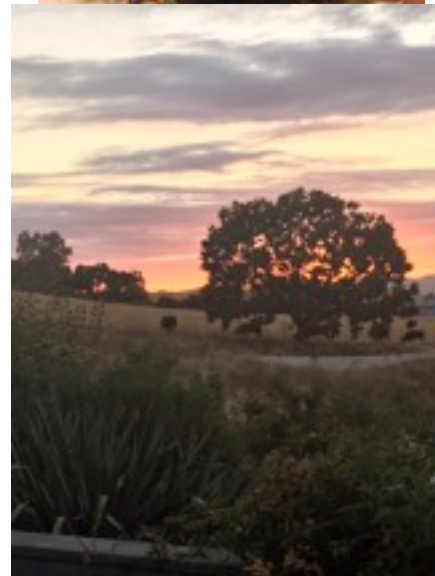
STHPC has had many members who have moved out of the area. This will be an occasional newsletter feature on those who have moved away. If you are one of those, please send a little info on your "new" life and a few photos to Lynn Hines at not57@sbcglobal.net. Thanks!

Nancy and Dave Girton

We are loving our home and Hollister. The people are friendly and there is a real small town feel. We've found some great restaurants and never need reservations!

We also are grateful to live close to Laura, Zach and the granddaughters (Adelynn and Rylee) now 3 and 1 1/2. We see them often, and love having a role in their lives.

Last year we traveled in the Airstream back to Knoxville for Brooke's graduation from college. We also have some US trips planned this year. Kanab UT in August for the Cowboy poetry festival, Shasta Lake in September, and later that same month we will be heading for Yellowstone! More trips in the works, but so far these are the only confirmed ones. Brooke and her husband Richard will be coming out for a visit as well - likely in the summer. Can't wait to see them.



Holy Humor Sunday

April 8





Cards for a Cause

When: Saturday, May 12 from 7 - 9 PM

Where: STHPC Fellowship Hall

Why: Benefit for Miyah and the Ngwa

Family to help defray care costs

Bring: An appetizer or a dessert to share

Come to play poker, black jack (21) and/or bingo. Purchase chips or bingo cards, have fun playing with friends, and raise money to help defray care costs for the Ngwa family.

What can I do to help? Please come! You can also bring your friends and neighbors!

Sign up at the Activity Table so we'll know about how many people to expect - Thanks!

OR - make a donation through Givelify or make a check to STHPC, write Miyah in the memo line.



ADULT ED MINISTRY

As the flowers bloom, let us all grow our faith. We can do it alone, in prayer, in service to others or as a group. Join in this spring connection to our Lord.

The Sunday morning bulletin *Bible Study* insert continues to allow for study at home. God calls us to make *connections* that give our lives new meaning and draws us closer to Him. We hope that members and friends look into the Bible and let the scriptures help you discover yourself with God's help.

Pastor Tom's study on doubt, in April, was so well received that the group has chosen another book to study in the coming weeks. The book is *"The Bible Tells Me So ... Why defending Scripture Has Made Us Unable to Read It"* by Peter Enns. The sessions will begin on May 9th and 11th. We will meet, as before, Wednesdays at 7:00 PM and Fridays at 12 noon. Books are only \$10 and scholarships are available if you want help.

Watch for more opportunities to grow in faith - do, pray, share, sing, read, help, celebrate. Spring is a good time to grow your faith and enjoy the beauty of the days. *Let your love show.*

Scripture: John 15:9-17, 1 John 5:1-6

Questions

1. What does "fruit that will last" mean to you?
2. How can you bear fruit that will last? Are you willing to do that?
3. Who overcomes the world?
4. How can you let your love show? Invite someone to church. Share your faith with them.

Carol Miller, Adult Ed Elder

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN



In March, Vivian Harley and I were treated to a wonderful PWP retreat featuring Carol Foster, who spoke on Hope. It was very inspirational and we took a lot away from the event.

April was busy month for our PW group here at STHPC. We had our meeting on Saturday, April 21 with six of us attending! We voted to donate \$200 of our PW funds (mostly from Nut Sales proceeds) towards the purchase of backpacks for the Santa Maria Urban Ministries (SMUM) 'Back to School' ministry. We also completed lesson #7 of our bible study "Cloud of Witnesses: The Community of Christ in Hebrews". On Sunday, April 22, ran the Worship Service. Our theme was 'Leading with Love'. Thanks to all the liturgists Marylyn Goode, Barb Overholt, Joy Lee, Cathy Warrick, Cathy Williams, the Women's Chorus, and to Cathy Williams for her Solo 'O How He Loves You and Me'. A very special thanks to Ethan Li, Yolanda Wu's son, who played several piano pieces for the prelude AND accompanied the Women's Chorus for the Introit "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee". Last but not least, my thanks go out to Carol Miller, for providing much of the Sermon material that I then delivered to the congregation. We have a lot of amazing women in our church and I am very grateful they are so willing to serve!

Please note on your calendars our next few meeting dates: Tuesday, May 16 at 7 PM (lesson #8 at STHPC) Saturday, May 19 2-4 PM is the PWP Annual Gathering at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church. Then on Saturday, June 16 from 10 AM-noon we will have our final meeting before breaking for the summer. We will do our last lesson, #9, and also have a potluck lunch. We will also do a small gift exchange to celebrate all of our birthdays for the year, and collect for the PWP Birthday Offering. Hope you can join us for these meetings.

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 March 18 and May 1, 30 people were assisted; 26 people received food and 11 people received bus tokens. Kristie was able to honor requests for 1 gift card.

Food donations totaled 179 lbs. Thank you! All the donations for this period came from STHPC!

*The Deacons
and the Church & World Committee*

YOUTH MINISTRY

On Easter the Youth helped the younger kids decorate Easter Eggs. Great, but messy! Fun was had by all!

We are still on the lookout for a new Youth Director, your recommendations and referrals are welcome.

STHPC Youth are busy working on the following activities:

- A custom bird house representing the church and our neighborhood to be placed in the courtyard area
- T-shirts for Light the Night
- Some have signed up to be a helper with children's education

Thank you for your support. Have a blessed week.

Kate Manley, Youth Elder

Nursery Attendants

5/6 Rebecca Elliot
5/13 Alfred Morikang
5/20 Rebecca Elliot
5/27 TBD
6/3 Rebecca Elliot
6/10 Alfred Morikang



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

	March 2018 Month to Date	Through 3/18 Year to Date
Income	\$24,103	\$65,368
Expense	\$27,354	\$72,749
Net Income	-\$3,251	-\$7,381

Jim Wright, who moved to Nebraska at the end of last year. would love to hear from STHPCers! Cards, letters or phone calls would be welcome. His contact information is:

Jim Wright
404 Woodland #205
Grand Island, NE 68801
(308) 675 2380



Reasons to Celebrate!

Birthdays

May 3	Karin McMinn
May 10	Ross Souter
May 11	Lucas Mudoh, Mike Overholt
May 12	Paris Elizabeth Acha
May 17	Steve Sunseri
May 23	Susan Hunt-McArthur
May 24	Billy Sunseri
May 27	Libby Souter
May 29	Eric DeJarnett
June 3	Nancy Chesterson, Posey Shiu,
June 4	Barbara Brown
June 5	Mike Manley
June 9	Tom Coop, Karla Frye
June 10	Robin DeJarnett
June 12	Clarís Ngwa
June 16	Teke Ngwa
June 23	Edith Sona
June 24	Ruth Lund

Anniversaries

June 9	David & Nancy Girton
June 15	Tim & Laura Davis
June 17	Horace & Lynn Hines,
June 18	Steven & Annie Sunseri
June 19	Hersh & Nan Brown
June 22	Tom & DeLynn Coop

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

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.
Third Saturday:	Presbyterian Women at STHPC at 10:00 AM - every other month
Last Sunday:	Breakfast at Aqui Restaurant (Blossom Hill & Snell) following worship (around 11:30ish)

Upcoming Events

Every Sunday

Two Can Sunday

Wed., May 9 @ 7 &

Fri. May 11 @ noon

New Book Study

"The Bible Tells
Me So"

(see pg. 1 for details)

Sat., May 12

7 - 9 PM

Cards for a Cause

(see pg. 8 for details)

Sun., May 20

Bread for the World

letters after worship

(see pg. 2 for info)

Sun., May 20

Sun., June 17

Usher training

after worship

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: June 14

for Summer 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



Cards
for a
Cause

Saturday, May 12
7 - 9 PM

