

Echoes from the Hills

Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church • San Jose, California



COOP'S CORNER

What's In a Name?

What's in a name? My name tells me a little about who I am. My first name was in honor of my great grandfather, a reputable and distinguished judge in San Francisco.

My middle name is my mother's maiden name – my mother, one of the most kind-hearted, loving, and caring people I have ever known.

And my last name is my father's – who was an honest, accepting, humor-filled, and intelligent man. All three of these people I admire and desire to emulate.

Jesus also has many names. The Old Testament Prophet Isaiah gives us his names as *Wonderful Counselor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, and the Prince of Peace*.

George Frederick Handel, the composer of one of the all-time masterpieces, "The Messiah," devotes a whole chorus to Isaiah's list of names.

It is a favorite of mine and every time I hear the names, I can't help but sing them. Each name is sung by the whole chorus in wonderful harmony, and each name is followed by a rest, that functions like an exclamation point, emphasizing each name.

And each name tells us something different about our Savior. Think about it...

- **Wonderful:** There is joy in that word. It is filled with graciousness and hope. It tells me that good things are ahead.
- **Counselor:** Someone we can turn to for guidance, a confidant, someone who can see inside of us and understand and accept us.
- **Mighty God:** Is there anything impossible for our Savior? Not if he is a Mighty God ... and he is.
- **Everlasting Father:** When I think of "everlasting" I think of something that has neither a beginning nor an end. And that is what it is like with Jesus' love for us. "Father" is a word that invokes for me feelings of love, protection, instruction, and care. He is like a parent who will always be there for me, loving me, challenging me, and providing for me.
- **Prince of Peace:** There needs be no anxiety when I rest in the care of the one who offers me peace. My life can be a wreck, the world can be a wreck – but I can have peace because Jesus, the Prince of Peace, is in control.

That's my two cents. This Advent I hope that you will take time to reflect on the many names of Jesus and what that might mean for your life and your faith.

And may I encourage you to maybe even take a moment to listen to "The Messiah." Or better yet, come and sing it with us.

We will be joining a cast of hundreds and singing "The Messiah" on Monday, December 10th. Tickets are only \$20 and you can sign-up in the courtyard or call Cheryl Elliot at 408-410-9606.

May you all have a blessed Advent. And as always, I will see you on Sunday!

Pastor Tom

CHURCH AND WORLD MINISTRY

Our church is busy living out its mission by supporting several different projects: Peacemaking Offering, "Light the Night", the Christmas Joy offering, and Alternative Giving.

PEACEMAKING

The Peacemaking Offering in October received \$523. Half of this is distributed to the PCUSA, one quarter to our San Jose Presbytery, and one quarter to the YMCA's Project Cornerstone. Project Cornerstone is committed to helping all children and teens in Silicon Valley feel valued, respected and known. Their programs and services help individuals and communities build a web of support around young people so that they grow into healthy, caring and responsible adults.

LIGHT THE NIGHT

The Cameroon community and STHPCers joined to make over 60 people who took part in the "Light the Night" walk for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society the last Saturday in October. This was a strong showing of support for our own Miyah Ngwa in her fight against leukemia and to benefit the LLS Society. We walked about 1.6 miles around Avaya Stadium, which is home to the San Jose Earthquakes.



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING

We will be taking the Christmas Joy Offering this December. This offering supports current and retired church workers and their families in times of need through the Board of Pensions. Additionally it supports funding for three Presbyterian-related schools. The Joy Offering helped over 900 families last year. These generous actions bear witness to our faithful response to God's charge to love one another as Christ commanded. These funds are also used to further the education of our future leaders.

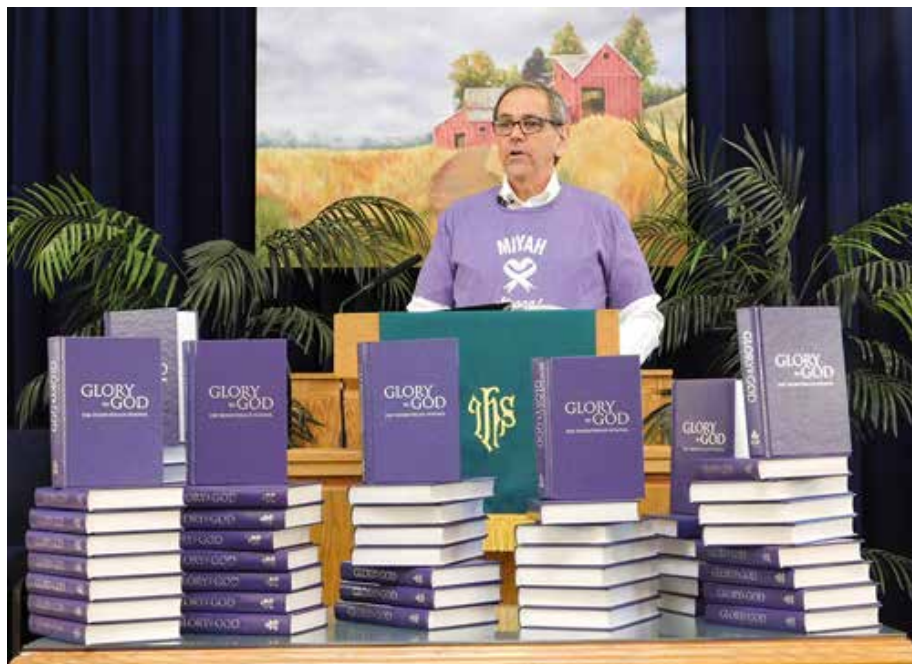
ALTERNATIVE CHRISTMAS GIVING

Alternative Giving, our donation program at Christmas time, begins December 2. This year we have four projects! 1.) Immanuel House - money donated to Immanuel House will help provide new bedding and towels for their new residents. Residents take their bedding when they leave for their new home. 2.) Cameroon project. This year funds raised will enable our Cameroon members (from the Anglophone area) to pass money to refugees who have fled to Nigeria to get away from the violence and civil unrest that exists between the Anglophone area (Southwest and Northwest) and the Francophone area (rest of the country). 3.) Camp Fire Relief – money donated to the North Valley Community Foundation's Camp Fire fund. It supports the evacuation centers who opened their doors to the people who lost their homes and fled the fire. Once the immediate needs begin to get met and as we move out of a crisis situation, the fund will transition to supporting long-term recovery efforts. Since we are not yet out of the crisis we do not know exactly what these needs will be, but the money will ultimately go to supporting victims of the Camp Fire. 4.) Youth project through the PCUSA Giving Catalogue (see page 7 for details on the Youth's choices.)

Paul Elliot, Church & World Elder

Hymnal Dedication Sunday • October 28

With members of the a cappella group “Crescendo” joining STHPC’s Chancel Choir, the congregation was in for a rare treat. Special music was performed “Praise the Lord Together,” “All Things Work Together for Good,” Kinley Lange’s moving “Esto Les Digo” based on Matthew 18:19-20, and a special Prayer of Dedication for the New Hymnals was presented. Our Stewardship Campaign continued with Jim McClure providing his personal insights on the importance of serving one another. DeLynn Coop was our liturgist.



Jim McClure

The a cappella group “Crescendo” that sang at STHPC this past August were on hand to add to the emotional Spanish piece “Esto Les Digo.”



DeLynn Coop • Liturgist



Worship and Music



We don't usually get to see the percussionists because they usually sit in the last row.



Our lively and spiritual brothers and sisters of the Cameroon Choir.

Honoring Our Veterans • November 11

Our scripture lessons were taken from Psalm 20 and 2 Timothy 2:1-7. Pastor Tom's sermon title "Elephants and Grass," included reciting Rev. J. Herbert Nelson's letter of November 7, 2018 to the Cameroon Presbyterian Churches. A link to this letter is here: www.pcusa.org/news/2018/11/7/prayers-cameroon.

The congregation enjoyed the music of our Cameroon Choir; Paul Elliot was on hand to lead us in worship, and Libby Souter stepped up to the pulpit for Moment for Mission.



Elder Paul Elliot



Elder Libby Souter

Worship and Music

Serving in Worship ...

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

Thank you to our USHERS in November:

Laurie Boggs, Emily Manley, Barb Overholt, Dave Robertson, Kate and Emily Manley, Barry and Angela Pumphrey.

Thank you to our LITURGISTS in November:

Barb Overholt, Paul Elliot, Hugh McDevitt, Dave Robertson.

Thank you to our COMMUNION SERVERS on November 4:

Cheryl Elliot, Bill Simmons, Gina Cunningham, Barb Overholt.



Your Heavenly Warblers

We'd love for you to prayerfully consider joining this wonderfully diverse and friendly group of individuals. It's a great way to get to know one another! No previous choral experience is required and, I believe, the only proviso is that you be able to stand up and sit down on cue. Please contact Choir Director Hugh McDevitt for rehearsal times and dates.

Advent 2018

December 2 • First Sunday of Advent

Advent Candle Lighters
Communion Served

December 9 • Second Sunday of Advent

Advent Candle Lighters
Decorate the Christmas Tree

December 16 • Third Sunday of Advent

Special Choral Music
Advent Candle Lighters

December 23 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

Advent Candle Lighters
Christmas Joy Offering
Caroling Around the Piano

Christmas Eve Candlelight Services

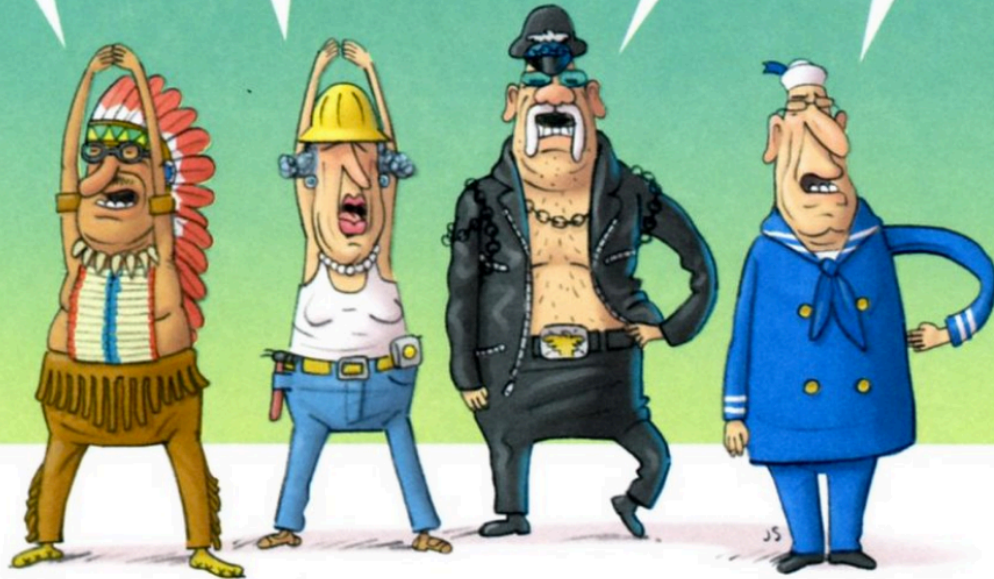
7:30 p.m. • 11:00 p.m.
Advent Candle Lighters

December 30 • 10:00 a.m. Service

Jane Odell at the Pulpit



A-A-R-P! I wanna join the A-A-R-P!



The Retirement Village People

STHPC invites you to
Pastor Tom's
Retirement Party
Saturday, January 12, 2019
6 - 9 PM in the Fellowship Hall
Lasagna and Cameroon dishes
Please sign-up
at the Activity Table
to help with food

YOUTH MINISTRY



The Youth have decided on their Youth Alternative Christmas gift. They have chosen three programs this year that they would like to support, all through the PCUSA Giving catalogue. (This is similar to Heifer, but through the Presbyterian Church.)

The first project is a Garden Well. We can donate the cost of an entire well, \$1500, or give a share. A well and hand pumps provide clean water for drinking, bathing, washing, and irrigation to an entire community. It can change the lives of countless people by giving them a reliable and convenient source of water.

The second project is a Dairy Cow for \$450. A dairy cow can provide a family in need with a reliable source of income and nourishment. The gift also supports training in caretaking and sustainable breeding of livestock, improving the food and income security for families and villages in Kenya for years to come.



The last project, a Water Filter, is \$50. Presbyterians are actively responding to the Flint, Michigan, water crisis and to similar crises in other communities struggling with lead and contaminants in their cities' water supply. The gift of a water filter provides a family with safe water and keeps 300 empty bottles out of local landfills.

SESSION NOTES

Session Notes for November 13, 2018

- Buildings and Grounds reported that the courtyard bricks have been re-leveled, and Paul Elliott replaced the faucet in the kitchen sink. Thank you, Paul, from the treat cleanup crew!
- Session approved updating our credit card and checking accounts to cover needed changes for when Pastor Tom leaves.
- Session approved a job description for the interim. The Interim Committee is meeting with Presbytery's Committee on Ministry to start the search. We currently have one candidate and will start interviewing in December. Our goals are to choose an interim by January with a starting date of February 1.
- The Mission Study Committee met weekly. They have sent out online surveys and have conducted focus groups to gather data to provide to the Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC). The last focus group is Sunday, Dec. 2 after worship. The PNC cannot be formed until after Pastor Tom leaves.
- Session approved receiving donations for a going-away gift for Pastor Tom.
- Pledge summary for 2019: Thank you everyone who has turned in their 2019 pledge. Current received pledges as of Nov 8 total \$173,920. 11 pledges likely coming in (people who pledged last year) – if unchanged they will add \$14,100. Likely pledge total: \$188,020 (vs. \$198,500 last year). We lost one significant giver who accounted for all of the difference.

Session meetings are typically on the second Tuesday of each month and are open except for limited personnel matters. They start at 6:55.

Horace Hines, Visibility Elder

Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church
presents its 12th annual

Community Christmas Dinner

Saturday • December 8
1:00 p.m. — 3:00 p.m.

Help those in need of a hot meal and warm,
friendly faces by bringing a dish
to this event.

Signup Sheet in Courtyard
or contact: **Cheryl Elliot**

CHILDREN'S ED MINISTRY

Sunday School Teachers and Helpers

Date	Lead Teacher	SS Helper or Nursery
12/2	Lynn Hines	Yolanda Wu
12/9	Cheryl Elliot	TBD
12/16	Lynn Hines	Rebecca Elliot
12/23	Marilyn Morikang	Alfred Morikang
12/30	Kate Manley	Emily Manley

Words for the Word Search:

Angel	Donkey	Jesus
Kings	Joseph	Manger
Mary	Shepherd	Stable
Star		

NATIVITY WORD SEARCH

L	E	G	N	A	S	O	D	J	S
Z	B	Q	Y	T	R	R	R	O	G
B	O	R	A	I	E	O	X	S	N
N	A	B	S	H	Z	E	S	E	I
M	L	M	P	U	P	N	N	P	K
E	U	E	A	D	S	Y	P	H	X
E	H	D	O	N	K	E	Y	B	S
S	T	A	R	Q	G	F	J	Q	G
F	V	T	X	K	D	E	J	Q	S
Y	C	L	V	L	H	X	R	I	F

What I did this Summer

Bill and Sharon Simmons had a fun vacation to Paris, Spain and Portugal in August. They so enjoyed the opportunity to see exciting places, learn interesting things, and meet wonderful people. They traveled with family and friends and used many different modes of transportation.

Notice the small sign they are holding. STHPC was with them! We love sharing our church with everyone near and far!

A vacation sign is available from Membership if you would like to share STHPC too.

Sharon Simmons, Membership Elder



**In Faro, on the southern coast
of Portugal**

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Nut Sales are doing well. We are almost sold out, so thanks to all of you for your purchases. I also want to thank our Nut packing crew: Bev Toulouse, Yvonne Miller, Laurie Boggs, and Paul and Cheryl Elliot.

At our November 20th PW meeting, we discussed Lesson #3 of our Bible Study "God's Promise: I am with you". The lesson topics so far have been: 1) God is with us wherever we are, 2) God is with us in our uncertainty, and in November, 3) God is with us in our discouragement.

Pumpkin Pie was served for snacks and we reflected on who and what we were thankful for.

If you want to join in on the PW Bible Study, Cheryl Elliot still has some lesson books and we have an extra DVD that can be checked out. This is helpful if you are not able to join us during our PW meeting time.

Sunday, December 9th from 12:30 PM - 2 PM will be our annual PW Christmas Gathering. Barb Overholt again has graciously invited us to her house for our luncheon (TOGO sandwiches/ Salads to be provided). Plan to bring a plate full of your favorite cookies for our cookie exchange. Please RSVP to Cheryl Elliot (celliot4270@sbcglobal.net or 408-410-9609) by , December 6 if you are coming, so we can be sure to have enough food.

PWP will have their Winter Gathering-Epiphany Tea on Sunday, January 6 from 2 PM - 4 PM at Stone Church in Willow Glen. We will have tea and goodies first and then head into the candle-lit sanctuary for a wonderful Taize worship experience of music, chanting, and readings. Contact Cheryl if you are interested. We will provide carpools as needed.

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 October 22 and November 20, 19 people were assisted; 13 people received food and 10 people received bus tokens. Kristie was able to honor requests for 1 gift card.

Food donations totaled 200 lbs. Thank you for donations from STHPC: 50 lbs., St. Julie's: 85 lbs, and Other: 65 lbs.

*The Deacons
and the Church & World Committee*

Nursery Attendants

12/2 Yolanda Wu
12/9 TBD
12/16 Rebecca Elliot
12/23 Alfred Morikang
12/30 Emily Manley



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. 2018 Month to Date	Through 11/18 Year to Date
Income	\$37,988	\$307,170
Expense	\$27,483	\$283,394
Net Income	\$10,505	\$23,776

Thank you to Hersh Brown and Cathy Warrick who brought treats in September & October. Thanks too to those who clean up each week. The "open" dates below are opportunities to help provide fellowship after our worship services.

Treat Schedule/Clean-up help needed also

All dates in December are open. We are requesting that several people sign up to bring Christmas cookies on December 23 for our annual Caroling Around the Piano. Hot cider will be provided by the Fellowship Committee.

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.





Reasons to Celebrate!

Birthdays

Dec. 7	Marylyn Goode, Emmanuel Ngwa
Dec. 8	Megan DeJarnett
Dec. 9	Pearl Njinda
Dec. 17	Tim Davis
Dec. 19	Barb Overholt, Chad Cunningham
Dec. 23	Merry Leatherbarrow Nancy Alvarez
Dec. 25	Jesus
Dec. 28	Sharon Simmons
Dec. 30	Gretchen Webb
Dec. 31	Zoe Webb



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
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



Every Sunday

Sat, Dec 8

Sun, Dec 23

Mon, Dec 24
7:30 & 11:00 PM

Dec 24 - Jan 1

Sat, Jan 12

Sun, Jan 13

Two-Can Sunday

Deacon's Community
Christmas Meal 1-3 PM

Caroling around the
Piano - after worship

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

Church Office closed

Pastor Tom's
Retirement Party 6 PM
(see pg. 6 for details)

Pastor Tom's last
Sunday

*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: January 2
for January 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

Christmas Eve
Candlelight Services
Monday, December 24
7:30 and 11:00 PM

