

Echoes from the Hills

Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church • San Jose, California



COOP'S CORNER

Until We Meet Again

This is my 184th and final *Coop's Corner*. Hard to believe. Seventeen years. Wow! During my time here I have preached 831 sermons, conducted 56 memorial services (my first here was Betsy Parks – does anyone remember her? And the last was Iris Fox). I have officiated at 43 weddings, beginning with Tony and Irene Gonzales and ending with Laurie Boggs' daughter's. And I can't tell you how many baptisms I've done.

And let me tell you, it has been a great seventeen years. An unbelievable seventeen years. I have been greatly blessed in the process!

I did all my "thank you's" in my November column, so I won't bore you with a repeat of that. Let it suffice to say that we've come a long way together.

I do hope you will be as gracious and generous with the interim pastor who will start in February after I am gone, and with the new installed pastor who will come sometime after that.

This is an amazing congregation, with amazing people, who do amazing things. Any pastor would be lucky to get to serve here. I honestly believe that.

A couple of reminders. My last day in the office will be Sunday, January 13th. After that I will be busy packing up our house and getting ready to move. We plan to move sometime in early February (at the time of my writing this, the exact date had not been firmed up) – but most likely towards the end of the first week. Up until the end of January I will still be available for pastoral care situations.

After I leave, I will no longer be allowed to do weddings, memorial services, or baptisms of church members. That shouldn't be too much of a problem as I will be in Georgia. It's a good rule. It helps to make sure that your new pastor has your full and undivided attention.

DeLynn and I do hope that you all will come and visit (please call first!). Our new address is: 1051 Island Inlet Cove, Greensboro, Georgia 30642. Our phone numbers will stay the same. We will be living just a stone's throw from a beautiful 20-mile-long lake with 374 miles of coastline and we would love to take you out for a spin.

So, I will not say "Goodbye", but "see you later."

These past seventeen years have been the best years of my life (I know, I have said that already – but it's true. And you all made it that way (okay, DeLynn helped).

May God bless you and keep you and may God's countenance shine upon you and give you peace.

Until we meet again ...

Pastor Tom

Worship and Music Barb Overholt • Elder

A Time of Thanksgiving ***"Always and for everything – give thanks."***



Hugh McDevitt

The Rev. Jim Bender graced our pulpit while Pastor Tom was away at conference and provided us with a thought-provoking and heart warming sermon on "The Presence of Gratitude." Thank you Rev. Bender for keeping us spell-bound throughout this beautiful sermon. Choir Director Hugh McDevitt was on hand as our liturgist as well as directing our choir.



Rev. Jim Bender

First Sunday of Advent • December 2 ***"The Ghosts of Christmas Past"***

We welcomed in the Advent season with soloists Dave Robertson and Cathy Williams singing a beautiful duet rendition of "How Will We Know?"; Dottie Simerly and Barb Overholt presented the Advent Candle litany for "The Prophecy Candle" written by our very talented Laurie Boggs.

It was so wonderful to have our pastor back with us! Our scripture lessons were from Jeremiah 33:14-16 and Matthew 1:18-25 relating to the fulfillment of God's promise, and Pastor Tom's sermon "The Ghosts of Christmas Past." Rhona Souter was on hand to announce the Youth's current project for Alternative Christmas and Elder Paul Elliot was our liturgist.

Christ the King Sunday



Elder Dave Robertson

Elder Dave Robertson stepped up to the pulpit in Pastor Tom's absence on November 25 and aptly provided Tom's sermon "Christ As King" which also included Dave's own reflections, and prefaced the sermon with a bit of history on the rulers of the

time. We are so very blessed to have such talented members of the congregation who step up to the challenge of giving a sermon at the 11th hour. Our scripture lessons were from Psalm 132:1-12 and John 18:33-37. Thank you, Dave and Horace Hines (liturgist) for a wonderful and memorable service.



Elder Horace Hines



Soloists Dave Robertson and Cathy Williams provided us with a beautifully sung duet for "How Will We Know?"

First Sunday of Advent (cont.)



*Cousins Dottie Simerly and Barb Overholt
give the litany for The Prophecy Candle.*

What a full service we experienced on December 9! Our Cameroon brothers and sisters were on hand to lead us into worship with the Cameroon Choir singing "Halleluiah, Praise the Lord," "Go Tell It On The Mountain," and "Once In Royal David's City." Advent Candle Lighters Bob and Beatrice Toche provided the litany for The Bethlehem Candle. We celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism for Grayson Tiger Cook and Elders Bob Toche and Yvonne Miller were on hand to speak of the many ways we can give to our mission projects this Advent. Pastor Tom's sermon "The Ghosts of Christmas Present" related to scripture lessons from Deuteronomy 15:7-11 and Luke 1:46-56 focusing on ignorance and want.



The Cameroon Choir



*Bob and Beatrice Toche
give the litany for The Bethlehem Candle.*

Elder Marilyn Morikang



*Left: Grayson Tiger Cook
son of Chris and Jackie Cook,
grandson of Steve and Annie and Sunseri,
was baptized into the Christian faith by Rev. Thomas Coop.*



Decorating the Christmas Tree

December 9



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 December:

Angelina Red, Rebecca Elliot, Laurie Boggs, Jerry and Carol Miller, Barb Overholt, Christ De La Roca, Cheryl Elliot.

Thank you to our LITURGISTS in December:

Paul Elliot, Marilyn Morikang, Cheryl Elliot, Marylyn Goode, Barb Overholt.

Thank you to our COMMUNION SERVERS on December 2:

Caryl Brown, Cathy Williams, Barb Overholt, Bill Simmons.

Thank you to our ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTERS:

Dottie Simerly and Barb Overholt, Bob and Beatrice Toche, Horace, Lynn and Kelsey Hines, Barry and Angela Pumphrey, The Ngwa Family, The Elliot Family.

Third Sunday of Advent • December 16 “The Ghosts of Christmas Yet to Come”

What a wonderfully moving service we experienced in celebrating the third Sunday of Advent! Members of the a capella group Crescendo joined our Chancel Choir for a variety of inspirational music that had the congregation wanting for more. Advent Candle Lighters Horace, Lynn and Kelsey Hines presented the litany for The Shepherds’ Candle; Soloists Debbie McDevitt and Cathy Williams had us spellbound with Antonio Vivaldi’s “Laudamus Te” from “Gloria” for our Offertory. The choir had our undivided attention for the Introit “Hodie,” anthems “Mary Did You Know” and “Angels’ Carol,” along with a very upbeat anthem in the round “Carols Around.”



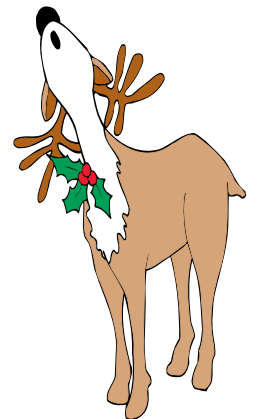
*Soloists Debbie McDevitt (left)
and Cathy Williams*

We welcomed Karla Frye who was visiting all the way from North Carolina and the Calzia family. Our church staff – the individuals behind the scenes that make our church run like clockwork – were highlighted and presented their end of the year bonuses.

Pastor Tom’s sermon “The Ghosts of Christmas Yet to Come” was based on scripture from Isaiah 11:1-9 and Romans 8:12-17.



*Advent Candle Lighters Kelsey, Lynn and Horace Hines
give the litany for The Shepherds’ Candle.*



*Members of the a capella group Crescendo joined STHPC’s Chancel Choir
for some very memorable and moving musical pieces.*



Elder Mojoko Sona (left, Administration) presented bonuses to the STHPC Staff (from L-R): Rachele Morin-Ponce (Nursery Supervisor), Angelina Red (Youth Director), Tiffany Shi (Musical Accompanist), Hugh McDevitt (Choir Director), and Libby Souter (Treasurer).



Nancy Chesterton and Dottie Simerly catch up with Karla Frye (right) after worship.



The Calzia Family with Pastor Tom.



Christmas smiles all around from Constance Ebanda, Mojoko Sona, Claris Ngwa, and Barb Overholt.

Fourth Sunday of Advent • December 23
“The Man Who Invented Christmas”

Taking scripture from Luke 1:39-45 and Isaiah 58:3-8, Pastor Tom’s sermon reflected on Charles Dickens’ dismal young life filled with little confidence and promise to how his story “A Christmas Carol” helped to “invent” Christmas – starting new traditions around Christmas and helping to revive the traditions and enthusiasm as well.



Advent Candle Lighters Barry and Angela Pumphrey presented the litany for The Angels’ Candle.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
7:30 p.m.

Miyah, Teke and Claris Ngwa presented the litany for The Christ Candle at the 7:30 p.m. Candlelight Service.

Pastor Tom was surrounded by the congregation in singing “Silent Night” at the 7:30 p.m. Candlelight Service.



Christmas Eve Candlelight Service 11:00 p.m.



Cathy Williams, Cheryl Elliot, Jerry McMinn, Paul Elliot sang "We Need A Little Christmas" for the Introit. Jerry McMinn and Cathy Williams were soloists for the Offertory, "A Christmas Invitation."



Merry Leatherbarrow • Liturgist



The Elliot Family (Paul, Geoff, Rebecca and Cheryl) presented the litany for The Christ Candle.



The rain could not stop our 18 attendees at the 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Service in singing "Oh, Holy Night" in the courtyard.

Community Christmas Dinner



On Saturday, December 8 from 1:00–3:00 p.m., the Deacons hosted a full turkey dinner with all the trimmings for around 23 people from our surrounding neighborhood. Gifts and gift cards were handed out to the families; Santa Claus made an appearance and provided treats for the children. The Deacons would like to express their appreciation to everyone who helped with food and monetary donations, and especially those who came out to be wonderful hosts for these families. Thanks also to Carthy Warrick for donating her beautifully hand-knit scarves and hats – always a treat! The number of families and individuals we serve seems to be dwindling each year which we hope is an indication that there is some improvement in our neighbors' living situations. Guests that came, expressed their gratitude and said they felt blessed and loved.

INTERIM PASTOR/SESSION NOTES

The Session unanimously approved offering the interim pastor position to Evelyn Macway at the January 8 meeting. She goes by Evie (short for Evelyn). The only remaining step is formal approval by the Presbytery Committee on Ministry (COM) on January 14. Evie will be starting February 1 and the contract covers one year with renewals possible. She will help lead STHPC as we transition from Tom's leaving to our new pastor. The Interim Pastor Search committee will transition their role to provide support to Evie, Kristie and the staff during the transition.

The Session and the Interim Search Committee are enthusiastic about Evie accepting the role of Interim Pastor. She is warm and personable, very approachable and a good listener. She enjoys the pastor care portion of her ministry. She wants to participate in the coffee hour and fellowship events to make connections with the congregation. Several references stated that she is a good communicator which came across in the in-person interview. She likes being engaged in church activities. One of her goals is to make connections with the people in the congregation.

Evie indicated that she prefers to work at home some of the days of the week while preparing her sermons but will be available by phone or email. She said she would be in the Office more at the start of her call to establish relationships.

Please help us welcome Evie to STHPC on Sunday, February 3. We will be having a light brunch after worship in the Fellowship Hall.

Interim Search Committee

Edith Sona, Steve DeJarnett, Cheryl Elliot, Horace Hines

Session Notes:

• Session approved holding the annual congregational meeting on Feb. 24 after worship. At that meeting we will elect a Nominating Committee that will nominate Elders, Deacons and members of the **Pastor Nominating Committee**. There will then be a subsequent congregational meeting to elect people to fill these positions.

• Thank you to Claris Ngwa, Cathy Warrick, Rhona Souter, Cheryl Elliot and Lynn Hines who brought treats in November and December. 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: All dates in January and February are open. Clean-up help needed also.

• 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.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Bible Study Lesson #3 "God's Promise: I am with you" will take place at our next meeting, Tuesday evening, January 15th at 7 PM. We will be looking at how God is with us in our discouragement. We did not have our November PW meeting.

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

On Sunday, December 9th, ten of us enjoyed sandwiches and salad at Barb Overholt's house for our annual PW Christmas Gathering. We also exchanged some very delicious cookies!

PWP held their Epiphany Tea on January 6 from 2 - 4 PM at Stone Church in Willow Glen. We first had tea and goodies and then went into the candle-lit sanctuary for a wonderful Taize worship experience of music, chanting, and readings.

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 Nov. 16 and Jan. 3, 13 people were assisted; 11 people received food and 6 people received bus tokens.

Food donations totaled 112 lbs. Thank you for donations from STHPC: 45 lbs., St. Julie's: 67 lbs.

*The Deacons
and the Church & World Committee*

Notes from the Choir Loft

Happy New Year! The choir has enjoyed some well-earned rest after a very active and fulfilling November and December. But we returned with renewed energy in January! We will be singing some of Tom's favorite anthems for his farewell Sunday with us on January 13th. What do we have planned for the New Year? We will be focusing on personal musical goals from the choir—including improving our sight-reading skills, our musicianship, and our ability to sing individual musical lines when the other voices are also singing complicated parts. We will also be looking to expand our musical selections by specifically looking for anthems written by women and to incorporate music from other cultures into our worship experience. We are also hoping to repeat our joint choir musical Sundays with our friends from Trinity Presbyterian Church and have our Cameroon and Chancel choirs sing together.

One of my New Year's goals is to simplify my conducting so that the choir can follow me better. This will require me to do a little more practicing at home and also record parts of our choir rehearsals so that I can evaluate my conducting at home. Do you have any musical goals for the New Year? Maybe one of them is to do some more singing and try out singing in the choir! Would you consider making a short-term commitment by joining the choir to sing just during Lent and Holy Week? I'd be happy to talk to you if you have any questions.

Finally, I'd like to say a big **"THANK YOU"** as he celebrates his retirement. Tom, you have been a blessing in my 18 months at STHPC. Thank you for hiring me. Thank you for your enthusiasm for singing, and thank you for your support of music as an important part of the worship ministry of Santa Teresa Hills. God's blessing on you and DeLynn as you begin this next chapter in your life!

I'll see you in worship!

Hugh McDevitt, STHPC Chancel Choir director

Nursery



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

	Dec. 2018 Month to Date	Through 12/18 Year to Date
Income	\$30,759	\$338,217
Expense	\$31,162	\$314,317
Net Income	-\$403	\$23,900



Reasons to Celebrate!

Birthdays

<i>January 1</i>	<i>Monica Haney, Mona Johnson</i>
<i>January 4</i>	<i>Epie Sona</i>
<i>January 5</i>	<i>Mary Jane Judge,</i>
<i>January 6</i>	<i>DeLynn Coop, Jim McClure</i>
<i>January 10</i>	<i>Tonge Sona</i>
<i>January 17</i>	<i>Emily Manley</i>
<i>January 19</i>	<i>Laura Davis</i>
<i>January 21</i>	<i>Jeanie Shelton, Jerry Miller</i>
<i>January 22</i>	<i>Charles Alvarez</i>
<i>January 26</i>	<i>Edward Koborssy</i>
<i>January 31</i>	<i>Jerry McMinn</i>
<i>February 1</i>	<i>Philmon Mosi, Chelsea Cunningham</i>
<i>February 2</i>	<i>Laura Davis</i>
<i>February 3</i>	<i>Caydance Cunningham</i>
<i>February 15</i>	<i>Vivian Harley</i>
<i>February 18</i>	<i>Carol Miller</i>
<i>February 21</i>	<i>Cheryl Elliot</i>
<i>February 22</i>	<i>Kate Manley</i>
<i>February 23</i>	<i>Alex Manley</i>
<i>February 24</i>	<i>Pat Judge</i>
<i>February 25</i>	<i>Kelsey Hines</i>
<i>February 27</i>	<i>Injoh Tanwani</i>

January 19
January 26

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: Horace Hines

Anniversaries

Ruth and Howard LeBas
Carol and Jerry Miller



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:	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)
Irregular meetings:	Deacons, Church & World Ministry Team

Upcoming Events

Every Sunday

Two-Can Sunday

Sat., Jan 12
6 - 9 PM

(call the Church Office for details)

Pastor Tom's
Retirement Party

Sun., Jan 13

Pastor Tom's last
Sunday

Sun., Feb. 3

Evie Macway,
STHPC Interim pastor
Welcome celebration
after worship in the Fellowship Hall

Evie Macway,
STHPC Interim pastor

Sun., Feb. 24

Congregational
Meeting
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 (thru January)**

Pastor Evie Macway cell (after Feb. 1) 650-465-3037

Church Bulletin deadline: Thursday 9:00 AM

Church Historian: Barb Overholt

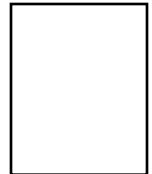
Church Newsletter deadline: Feb.27

for March/April 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



**Come welcome our new interim pastor
Evie Macway**



**Sunday, Feb. 3 after worship
in the Fellowship Hall**

