

Echoes from the Hills

Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church • San Jose, California



EMANATIONS FROM EVIE

In my ministry here with you this summer I have been called upon to do something I have never done before - twice! Two families in our church community asked if I would share in the leadership in services of thanksgiving they were planning. These were to be full worship services, similar to our Sunday morning services, taking place Saturday afternoons. The first invitation came from the Ngwa family who was planning a celebration for Miyah Ngwa's recovery from her diagnosis of leukemia and Miyah's baptism which took place in early July. The second came from Mojoko Edith Sona and her family as they were planning a 60th birthday celebration for Mojoko.

In both cases the planners of the services came to me and said there would be weekend long celebrations. They very intentionally wanted the festivities to begin with worship to express their gratitude, their thanksgiving, for the grace and love of God in their lives. "We must stop and say 'thank you' to God before we do anything else."

Both services, and weekends, were lovely, and I was honored to be a part of them. They were certainly special times for the Ngwa and Sona families, and also for all of us in the Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church family as we shared in the celebrations.

These special times in our lives together and these families' joyous expressions of their strong faith, have inspired me this summer. It is right to pause and give thanks to God. Some times we do it in the quick prayers we murmur when the traffic goes our way on a busy weekday afternoon or when the baby settles for a nap without a fuss. Sometimes we fall to our knees in gratitude when we see our repeated prayers for guidance or deliverance for ourselves or another answered in a way that brings life. And then there are the times our gratitude toward God comes in the form of continued prayers, of hope, of faith in God in the face of the 'not yet's' and the pain and the unknowns in our lives. Our gratitude rests in our faith.

This summer I am giving thanks for the ways in which our community of Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church expresses gratitude together and so beautifully supports and cares for one another as we express our thanksgiving and our prayers. We do not journey alone.

I thank God for you and for the ways in which you enrich my walk of faith by sharing your faith, hope and gratitude with me. May we continue to open ourselves to God and to one another as we rejoice, pray, and share our lives of faith here at STHPC.

With thanks to God,
Evie

Worship and Music • Barb Overholt • Elder

**Sunday, July 7 • “The Power of Christ”
2 Samuel 5:1-5, 9-10 • Mark 6:1-13**

What a joyful morning it was as we gathered for Miyah Abang Ngwa’s baptism! More than 200 parishioners filled the sanctuary; additional seating was brought in from all parts of the church’s facility to try and accommodate everyone. The Cameroon choir was on hand for our Introit “Hallelujah, Praise to the Lord,” Response to Baptism “Our Hearts Are Filled with Joy Today,” our Anthem “Tell the Story Sung by Angels,” and the Offertory “I Will Praise My Lord Every Day.”



The Cameroon Choir once again presented powerful and uplifting music for a very special service.



Fjord Hawthorne at the organ.

We welcomed Pastor Evie’s son-in-law, Curtis “Fjord” Hawthorne, as our organist and Elder Marilyn Morikang provided the children with a special sermon. The service and Fellowship Hour were so energetic and so much fun! The courtyard was so crowded, it was hard to find anyone!

A special thank you ...

... and recognition to all those who stepped in to help with the setting up of additional chairs for Miyah Ngwa’s baptism! The sanctuary was filled to capacity and your “can do” attitude with seating our visitors did not go unnoticed.



*The Ngwa Family –
Claris, Miyah, Teke, Emmanuel.*



*Surrounded by her family,
Miyah Abang Ngwa
is baptized into the Christian community
of faith.*

Sunday, July 21
"Disciple or Distracted?"
Genesis 18:1-10 • Luke 10:38-42

Riding on the coattails of the story of the Good Samaritan is the story of Mary and Martha. The story of the Good Samaritan is kind of a boilerplate story for teaching discipleship isn't it? In fact, Jesus tells the story to illustrate his command to *"love your neighbor."* Who is your neighbor? Everyone. And how do we love them? How do we follow Jesus' commands? How do we be a disciple of Jesus? By showing our love through doing.



Pastor Evie presents the children with a special sermon.



Lead Soprano Cathy Williams (STHPC Chancel Choir) along with her Vox Lumen choral group performed some very memorable and beautiful musical pieces.

Sunday, July 28
"First, Last, and Everything In Between"
Psalms 85:8-13 • Luke 11:1-13

Pastor Evie presented an insightful sermon on the lessons in prayer. Is it our first response or our last resort? Why do we pray? Because we can and we must. Prayer is our link to God who is our strength, our hope, our faith, our power, our peace, our first, our last, and our everything in between.

An impromptu summer choir assembled Sunday morning before service to rehearse some simple hymns of which the congregation was invited to participate. Thank you to those who were in this choir for leading us in worshiping God in song. Pastor Evie presented each child with a copy of The Lord's Prayer during the Children's Sermon.



A special treat – Summer All-Come's Choir. Introit "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing," and our Anthem "Be Thou My Vision."

Sunday, August 4

"Call" • Psalm 71:1-6 • Jeremiah 1:4-10

Our Bible is full of "call" stories: Abraham and Sarah, Moses, Jonah, Elijah, Ezekiel, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Samuel ... How often do you find yourself wondering, "God, is that you?" in the midst of the events and the choices of your life? How often do you hear God's voice or see God's hand in your life and wrestle with how you will respond? How do you hear God calling you?

Hugh and Debbie McDevitt treated us to a duet "Lord, Speak to Me" for our Anthem and Debbie sang an emotional solo "Give Me Jesus" for our Offertory. Thank you Hugh and Debbie for your inspirational talents.



Hugh and Debbie McDevitt

Sunday, August 11

"Faith ... Longing ... Restlessness"

Psalm 50:1-8, 23 • Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16



Dave Robertson and Cathy Williams are accompanied by pianist Tiffany Shi for their duet "Great Is Thy Faithfulness."

What is faith? *"Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen."* Our lectionary for the next few Sundays will take us on a journey through the Book of Hebrews where we will have a mini sermon series on the letter to the Hebrews. Because of the nature of Hebrews, the series will focus on faith. Our Hymn of Departure "He Came Down" was led by Elder Beatrice Toche where the congregation enthusiastically praised God in song Cameroon style! Thank you Beatrice!

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 becoming a liturgist or an usher, please contact Elder Barb Overholt or Pastor Evie.

Our USHERS in July and August:

Dave Robertson, Marylyn Goode, Paul and Cheryl Elliot, Laurie Boggs, Cathy Williams.

Our LITURGISTS in July and August:

Cathy Williams, Cathy Warrick, Chris De La Roca, Rhona Souter, Neville Mudoh, Teke Ngwa, Rebecca Elliot, Alfred Morikang.

Our COMMUNION SERVERS on August 4:

Karin and Jerry McMinn, Bill Simmons and Paul Elliot.

CHURCH & WORLD MINISTRY

Pentecost Offering

Each year we keep 40 percent of the denominational Pentecost offering and donate it to an organization to help the youth in our community. This year Church & World has chosen to support FLY. FLY stands for: **Fresh Lifelines for Youth**. It's an award-winning nonprofit, working to help youth get away from juvenile violence, crime, and incarceration. It operates in Santa Clara, San Mateo, and Alameda counties. The Pentecost Offering was received on June 9th. Our 40% (\$337) of the \$842 collected was combined with some monies from last year and meant that we were able to give \$662 to FLY. Thanks very much to all the contributors!

Bread for the World

On July 14, we had a very successful barbecue and letter writing for Bread for the World. The Fellowship committee put on the barbecue. There were 39 letters written to our Congress people to urge our government to accelerate progress toward ending hunger by increasing funding for global child nutrition programs. Almost half of the letters were written to Zoe Lofgren. Great job by everyone!

School Backpacks for SMUM

On July 21, the Youth group (8 young people strong!) very quickly packed the 24 backpacks for Santa Maria Urban Ministry (SMUM). The backpacks contained all the necessary school supplies for a 3rd to 5th grader. Thanks to



everyone in the congregation who donated or helped purchase the school supplies!!

Workday at SMUM

Save the date! On Oct. 5 we will spend the morning at Santa Maria Urban Ministry, 9 AM to noon. Minimum age is 12. Look for the signup sheet in late August.

C&W Finances

Your Church and World team has been working on our 2020 Dream Budget. We have added some new line items as well as increased the amounts for other line items. One of the key new items is to help support PCUSA missionaries, perhaps one in Central Africa and/or one working on the Southern Border of the US.

The other finance item is to allocate the Building Tithe money. We have spent most of that money over the years but there is still some left. We hope to use it by the end of 2019. Stay tuned to find out who we will support.

Cathy Warrick, Church & World Ministry Elder

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS MINISTRY

Look up and what do you see? A new roof and skylight on the Sanctuary and classrooms. The 30 year old roof was leaking and starting to disintegrate so it was time. This one should be a little cooler and last the next thirty years. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Roofing Fund, which significantly helped in defraying the total cost.

What's up with the church sign? Our main church sign was vandalized in June and for now we have a temporary banner sign. We are getting quotes for a large monument-type sign in order to improve our visibility and be able to display changing messages.

As always, please talk to me if you can volunteer time and talents to keep our church running. A great example and thank you for Rebecca Elliot who saw the broken sprinkler in the front. She volunteered to fix it and did (with help from Paul)!

Dave Robertson, Buildings & Grounds Elder



Annual Homecoming Sunday

Sunday, September 8, 2019

Breakfast 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM

Sign up at the Activity Table to bring one of the following (to serve 8 - 10):

Egg Puff (recipe below -or other breakfast casserole of your choice) or

Fruit or Muffins/bread

Juice, coffee, and place settings provided

EGG PUFF

9 X 13 pan 350 degrees for 35 - 45 minutes

10 eggs, 1/2 cup flour, 1 pint cottage cheese

1/2 tsp salt, 1 tsp baking powder

1/2 cup melted butter

1 pound grated cheese (Cheddar, Swiss, Jack, Pepper Jack) and/or

1 pound cooked meat (bacon, sausage, chorizo, ham, etc.) and/or

anything else (chilies, artichoke hearts, mushrooms, favorite spicy chili, veggies, etc.)

Beat eggs before adding other ingredients.

Pour into 9 X 13 inch baking dish that has been sprayed with cooking spray.

Can be made up to 3 days ahead and stored unbaked in the refrigerator.

Allow to reach room temperature before placing in oven to bake.

Bake at 350° F, for 35 - 45 minutes, or until eggs are done.

Notes from the Choir Loft

Welcome to the first issue of "Notes from the Choir Loft" for the 2019-20 choir season. Where did the summer go? We hope that you have enjoyed the variety of special music during our summer worship services. Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church is truly blessed to have people with a wealth of musical gifts that enrich our worship experience. I also enjoyed the experience of having you all sing with the choir on our two Summer Choir Sundays. What a joy to hear all of your voices as we sang "Guide My Feet" as a call-and-response offertory this morning.

So, what will we be doing in the Chancel Choir this coming year? We look forward to another musical collaboration with our friends at Trinity Presbyterian Church. Rehearsals will include introduction to new music and old favorites, ways to improve our musicianship and ability to read new music, and exploring the meaning and history of the texts and music we sing. We may even premiere a new composition or two! We will expand our musical horizons by singing music from other cultures. In a world where we talk a lot about building walls, music provides a connection that helps us to break down walls and live and worship in community together.

You have all shown that you can sing. Come join us for our first rehearsal on Thursday, August 29th. (There may even be food!) Would you like to consider a short-term commitment to the choir—maybe singing with us for Advent and Christmas? Please talk to me or any member of the choir. We would love to have you join in our community of life-long musical learners! See you on the patio!

Hugh McDevitt, STHPC Chancel Choir director

Things That Make Us Happy!

Saturday, August 10 • 2:00 p.m. • "Thanksgiving Service"

A celebration of life in faith with Mojoko Sona.



The Party!



Things That Make Us Happy!

Jerry and Carol Miller were busy this summer as they drove from San José to the Mammoth Caves and back. In May they took in the Rio Grande National Park, Route 66, visited a bunch o' rivers as well as three cave tours, Pikes Peak National Park, Mt. Rushmore, and Chimney Rock. Whew, what a wonderful tour of God's beautiful land!



Cheryl and Paul Elliot went on their very first cruise in May. In Seattle, they embarked onto the Norwegian

Cruise Line called the "Bliss." Ports of call were Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan, and Victoria, B.C. They also spent more than five hours cruising slowly around Glacier Discovery Bay. They enjoyed the food, entertainment and all the beautiful scenery!



Barb Overholt spent three fabulous weeks at the home of friends Jay Hartley and Mike Penfield in Chatillon-sur-Seine, France where she was treated to a plethora of daily fun excursions to wine and champagne

tastings, an art reception, dinners with mutual friends and neighbors, picnics in the countryside, ate fresh veggies out of neighbor Gerard's incredible gardens, walks around Lake Marcenay and lunch at Lake d'Orient; experienced the culinary delights of Canard-in-a-Can and Bastille Day fireworks in Chatillon and neighboring town Chameçon; took in abbeys, spent time in Chablis, Dijon, Beaune, Noyers, and Reims. **Dave and Carol Robertson** came into town and joined in the fun while staying in a B&B just down the street from the house. What a memorable time we had.



Outside Reims Cathedral • Reims



Tour and tasting at Chateau Pommard Winery • Pommard

FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

- In June we had a successful BBQ after the Church & World Committee's 'Bread For The World' letter writing event. Fifty-one people attended the BBQ and ate yummy burgers and dogs expertly grilled by Bill Simmons.
- Italian Night was the feature at the San Jose Giants game Saturday, August 17th. We had lots



of fun at the ballpark eating churros and watching the between inning antics of minor league baseball.

Paul Elliot, Fellowship Ministry Elder



- September 8 is our Annual Homecoming Sunday breakfast and worship. For more information see page 6.
- On December 22nd we will all gather around the piano to sing our favorite Christmas carols! Bring your best or loudest voices! And be prepared for the 12 Days of Christmas!
- On January 11th we are hosting an Ugly Sweater Murder Mystery Dinner, potluck style, starting at 5 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Watch for more information in the Fall and Winter. It will be fun!

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments

What would it mean to consider the Ten Commandments not as a harsh list of what not to do but, instead, as a "love letter" from a loving God? A fresh embrace of the Ten Commandments (or Words), author Eugenia Anne Gamble suggests, may ultimately contribute to the restoration of ourselves and our communities and the furthering of the gospel in the world. "Moral behavior matters, not simply because immoral actions can anger or disappoint God, but because principled behavior is how love becomes real, both toward God and in community." Love Carved in Stone is a Bible study that helps us reframe the way we look at and live in the world.

Each lesson begins with an exploration of one of the Ten Words in its biblical context. From there we consider a moment from Jesus' life that shows us how he lived out that Word. We then consider the Word for our own lives and contexts. We conclude with an invitation to pray with the Word in our circles or study groups and in our personal devotions.

Join STHPC Presbyterian Women on the 2nd Saturday of each month starting SEPTEMBER 14, 2019 from 10am – Noon in the MultiPurpose Room as we embark on this new PW Bible Study for 2019/2020. Cheryl Elliot has the Bible Study books available (\$10 each). At our STHPC PW meeting, we watch the companion DVD (usually very enlightening) and then look at the Bible Study book material and the Horizons supplemental lesson. And of course we enjoy a light snack and good fellowship time as well. Hope you can come join us.

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 veggies, 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! **\$10 Target gift cards are also appreciated.**

Monthly summary: Between June 7 – August 20, 24 people were assisted; 21 people received food and 15 people received bus tokens. One person received cash.

Food donations totaled 130 lbs. Thank you for donations from STHPC: 110 lbs., and Other: 20 lbs.

*The Deacons
and the Church & World Committee*

SESSION NOTES

Session Minutes Summary for August 13, 2019 Session meeting

- The Stewardship campaign will be held in October this year, on 4 Sundays starting October 6 through October 27.
- Lots of work has been happening on the church facilities. The re-roofing project is nearly complete. There was some minor damage to some of the sheathing boards in the sanctuary roof, but repairs have been completed. A new skylight for the sanctuary has been ordered and will be installed after it arrives in the next few weeks. Donations are still being accepted to help offset the cost of the new roof, which will end up being almost \$60,000. A big "THANK YOU" to everyone who has already made contributions to help offset the cost of the new roof!
- A temporary banner sign for the church has been installed and the lights for the sign and cross have been repaired and "hardened." A request for quotes has been issued for a new, permanent sign, which would have an LED display element in it. Quotes are taking a while to be generated, so stay tuned for more info.
- The Pastor Nominating Committee has been working hard and has received over 40 applications. A shorter list of candidates will be screened by the committee.

Steve DeJarnett, Clerk of Session

Nursery Attendants

9/1 Yolanda Wu
9/8 Emily Manley
9/15 Alfred Morikang
9/22 Emmanuel Ngwa
9/29 Rebecca Elliot
10/6 Yolanda Wu
10/13 Rebecca Elliot
10/20 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.



Income and Expenses

	July 2019 Month to Date	Through 7/19 Year to Date
Income	\$33,185	\$202,063
Expense	\$24,711	\$191,868
Net Income	\$8,475	\$10,195



Reasons to Celebrate!

Birthdays

Sept. 7	James MacKay
Sept. 9	Brandon Manley, Cathy Warrick
	Hersh Brown
Sept. 11	Sally McClure
Sept. 12	Mary Paterson
Sept. 13	June McCullough
Sept. 17	Rebecca Elliot, Rick Needham
Sept. 21	Claire McFeely
Sept. 28	Geoffrey Elliot
Oct. 2	Daniel Besong
Oct. 5	Danielle Keathley Samples
Oct. 6	Mosima Sona
Oct. 7	Kristie Reed
Oct. 9	Horace Hines
Oct. 12	Glenda Nolt
Oct. 15	Paul Elliot, David McFeely
Oct. 16	Jay Hartley
Oct. 23	Debbie Wallace
Oct. 31	Laurie Boggs

Anniversaries

Sept. 1	Dave and Carol Robertson
Sept. 17	Rick and Laura Needham
Oct. 3	Mary Jane and Pat Judge
Oct. 17	Linda and Stephen Buckley
Oct. 23	Barb and Michael Overholt

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: Beatrice Toche



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. (Starting August 29)
First Tuesday:	Fellowship Ministry Team at STHPC at 7:15 PM
Second Tuesday:	Session meeting at STHPC at 6:59 PM
Second Saturday:	Presbyterian Women at STHPC at 10:00 AM
Third Saturday:	Men's Fellowship meets at 8:30 AM in the Multipurpose room.
Third Sunday:	Church & World Ministry meeting at 11:15 AM
Last Sunday:	Breakfast at Aqui Restaurant (Blossom Hill & Snell) following worship (around 11:30ish)

Upcoming Events

Every Sunday	Two-Can Sunday
Thurs., Aug 29 7:30 PM	First Fall Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Sun., Sept. 8	Homecoming Sunday
Sat., Oct. 5	Faith-in-Action SMUM workday 9 - noon (see pg 5 for details)



*Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church,
The Reverend Evie Macway, Transitional 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 Evie's cell 650-465-3037
evie@sthpc.org**

Church Bulletin deadline: Thursday 9:00 AM

Church Historian: Barb Overholt

**Church Newsletter deadline: October 11
for November 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

**Annual
Homecoming
Sunday**



**Sunday, September 8, 2019
Breakfast 9:00 AM
Worship 10:00 AM
(see pg. 6 for details)**