

Echoes from the Hills

Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church • San Jose, California



EMANATIONS FROM EVIE

Advent Waiting – Christmas Joy

*Our God is the One who comes to us
in a burning bush,
in an angel's song,
in a newborn child.*

*Our God is the One who cannot be found
locked in the church,
not even in the sanctuary.*

*Our God will be where God will be
with no constraints,
no predictability.*

*Our God lives where our God lives,
and destruction has no power
and even death cannot stop
the living.*

*Our God will be born where God will be born,
but there is no place to look for the One
who comes to us.*

*When God is ready
God will come
even to a godforsaken place
like a stable in Bethlehem.*

*Watch...
for you know not when
God comes.*

*Watch, that you might be found
whenever
wherever
God comes.*

As we await the coming of God this Advent season, may we wait together with longing and with joy.

Advent and Christmas Blessings,
Evie

Poem entitled, *The Coming of God*, by Ann Weems,
from her book of poems, *Kneeling in Bethlehem*.

CHURCH & WORLD MINISTRY

Alternative Christmas - A Different Type of Giving

November and December are very busy months for everyone. Your Church and World committee is there to help with your Christmas presents! You can donate to one of the Alternative Christmas projects in "Aunt Susie's" name and then send her one of the appropriate cards reflecting your donation.

We have 3 projects to choose between:

- Help for the Cameroon refugees in the Anglophone area of the country. There is a non-profit, Association of the Deaf and Vulnerable, which helps those who have been abandoned as families flee to the forest or across the border to Nigeria.
- The youth have chosen 5 projects from the PCUSA giving catalog. These are: bags of moringa seeds, bunk beds for children, families of chickens, container gardens, and community irrigation water pumps. They are enthusiastic!
- Supplies or money for supplies for 12 homeless backpacks which Kristie can distribute.

Look for the signups and donation "cans" and cards on the patio. Help us help others during this Advent season.

JOY Offering

December is when we always collect the Joy Offering. 50% of this offering goes to help students at "Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color". The other 50% goes to "assist current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial needs". The Joy offering will be received Sunday, December 22.



Cathy Warrick, Church & World Ministry Elder

PASTOR NOMINATION COMMITTEE (PNC) UPDATE

The PNC is working diligently to find our new pastor. We meet almost every week and have conference calls. The committee, elected by the Congregation on April 7, first completed the Ministry Information Form (MIF) which was posted on the Presbytery website in June. The MIF describes our mission and our church to see who may be called to be our next pastor. Then, beginning in June, the committee began receiving PIF's (Pastor Information Form) for review. The PNC is carefully working to review and assess the applications as they come in and it has held several phone interviews with prospective candidates. The Session approved a budget of \$3,000, requested by the PNC, to cover expenses related to the search and selection of a pastor.

Horace Hines, PNC Chair

Jim Wright, longtime friend of the church, passed away in Nebraska on December 2 from serious health complications. Jim and his wife Peggy attended STHPC and were active in our mission and programs until Peggy's death and Jim's move to Nebraska. The service was Saturday, December 7 in Nebraska. Condolence cards may be sent to Jim's niece Rhonda, who many of us remember from her time here at STHPC helping Jim with his move.

Bernie and Rhonda Masimer
121 South Ridge Court
Battlement Mesa, CO 81635

Worship and Music Barb Overholt • Elder

Sunday, October 27 • “God on the Other Side”

Psalm 65: 5-8 • Luke 18:9-14

The Trinity Presbyterian Church Choir and STHPC's Chancel Choir made for a beautiful service in song and praise. “I Love Your House (Introit by Hugh McDevitt), “How Can I Keep from Singing (Anthem), and “I Will Arise” (Offertory) were highlights of the service. Veralin Mudoh was our liturgist.



Veralin Mudoh • Liturgist



Trinity Presbyterian Church and STHPC Chancel Choir

Below: Elder Marilyn Morikang talked with the children and showed them her first quilting project she learned from quilter Caryl Brown. More soft quilts will be made in the very near future especially for Cameroon newborns.



Sunday, November 3 • “Walk This Way”

Psalm 149: 1-5 • 2 Thessalonians 1:1-4, 11-12

While STHPC’s Chancel Choir was singing at Trinity Presbyterian Church, our Cameroon Choir provided uplifting choral selections “Look, Ye Saints, the Sign is Glorious” (Introit), “Oh, When the Saints” (Anthem), and “Praise God Alleluia (Offertory).



*The Cameroon Choir led by
Music Director Lucas Mudoh)*

Sunday, November 17 “Keep the Fires Burning”

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 • Matthew 25:1-13

How do we replenish oil for our lanterns? How do we nurture our faith in anticipation of Christ? These and other “burning” questions were posed to us in testing whether we are ready to face Christ.



Javon Archuleta

Liturgist Javon Archuleta graced our pulpit for the first time. We welcomed James MacKay into STHPC’s community of faith after receiving his letter of transfer from Los Gatos Presbyterian Church. Please make James feel welcome.



*Lynn Hines (l) presented “Alternative Christmas”
ideas for gift giving and Cathy Warrick announced
the start of gift-giving for the children of the San José
Comunidad LatinoAmericana Fellowship.*



James MacKay • New Member

Advent Calendar

First Sunday of Advent

December 1 • 10:00 a.m.

Communion

Guest Pianist: Earnest Little, III

Community Christmas Dinner

Saturday, December 7 • 1–3:00 p.m.

Second Sunday of Advent

December 8 • 10:00 a.m.

Decorate the Christmas Tree

Third Sunday of Advent

December 15

Special Choral Music

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 22

Caroling Around the Piano with Tiffany Shi

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service and Communion

December 24 • 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Day • Cameroon Service

10:00 a.m. • All are welcome!

Happy New Year!

Sunday, January 5 • 10:00 a.m.

Communion

Guest Organist: Fjord Hawthorne



Sunday, November 24

"Why We Should Trust God, Not Bread"

Psalms 91:1-16 • Deuteronomy 8:3 • Matthew 4:4

We welcomed Pastor Isabella Nyakundi back to our pulpit in Pastor Evie's absence. Her emotionally-charged and spirit-filled sermon on having faith that God hears us and will provide in all times of trouble, pain, and uncertainty, and to be reassured that you will always walk in His shadow of protection. "Amen!"

Barb Overholt was our liturgist, Dave Robertson led our "Prayers of the People," and the Chancel Choir was on hand with Twila Paris' "He Is Exalted," "Good Shepherd," and Hans Leo Hassler's lively number of Psalm 96, "Cantate Domino."

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 November and December:

Laurie Boggs, Barb Overholt, Jim and Sally McClure, Merry Leatherbarrow, Chris De La Roca, Dave Robertson, Barry and Angela Pumphrey.

Our LITURGISTS

in November and December:

Rhona Souter, Veralin Mudoh, Mojoko Sona, Daniel Ebanda, Javon Archuleta, Barb Overholt, Horace Hines, Steve DeJarnett.

Decorate the Sanctuary

Saturday • November 30 • 9:00 - noon

It was a cold and blustery morning but with Christmas music to set the mood, Dave Robertson, Sally McClure, Bev Toulouse, Marylyn Goode, and Barb Overholt busied themselves with decorating the Advent Candle Stand, fluffed up the wreaths, hung Advent paintings, and assembled the Christmas tree. Refreshments and fun fellowship were enjoyed by all.



Dave Robertson hoists the "Behold ... the Light!" canopies.



Sally McClure tends to the wreaths

First Sunday of Advent • "HOPE"

"God Is Not Finished"

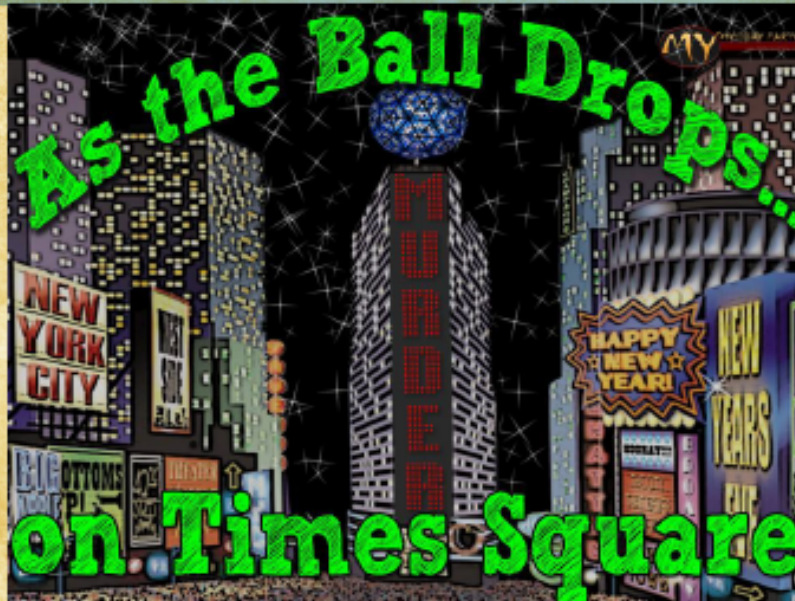
Romans 13:11-14 • Isaiah 2:1-5

Advent Candle Lighters First Sunday of Advent

*Bob Toche, Lucy and Michael
(Beatrice's parents),
Constance Ebanda, Grace Toche,
Beatrice Toche.*



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND A MURDER MYSTERY PARTY...



HOSTED BY:

Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church Fellowship Committee

YOU WILL PLAY THE ROLE OF:

Roles will be assigned by 1/1/2020

DATE: Saturday Jan. 11, 2020

TIME: 5:30pm - 8:30pm

SCENE OF THE CRIME:

Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church - Fellowship Hall

RSVP: to Cheryl Elliot by 12/30/2019 408-410-9609 or celliot4270@sbcglobal.net

Murder Mystery Synopsis/Save the Date!

Join our Murder Mystery Dinner on Saturday, Jan. 11 from 5:30 - 8:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. The story takes place at a New Year's Bash at the Broadway Plaza Hotel in historic Times Square, New York City ... and you are all invited! The Who's Who of the Big Apple is due to arrive on the scene in their most fashionable attire. The party will start with delectable appetizers and fun party games. The guests will kick off the night with fun conversation - even though most guests have sordid histories together. Dinner and, of course, dessert will be served. (Of course, it's a potluck!) More details and sign-ups after the Christmas holidays. Please note: Guests will be provided their 'scripts' before the evening. This game is easy, as all the 'conversations' are written out for you; so all you have to do is eat, drink and be merry! And oh yeah, there might be a murder you will need to solve, so you will need to pay attention!

Notes from the Choir Loft

I love Advent and Christmas music. I absolutely love Advent and Christmas music. I LOVE ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC. (Did you know that I love Advent and Christmas music?) I feel very fortunate that the STHPC Chancel Choir has a tradition of presenting a special Sunday of Advent and Christmas music during December. The music for Sunday, December 15th will include anthems by favorite Christmas composers John Rutter and Alfred Burt and new compositions by Mark Hayes and Mary McDonald. After Evie and I met to discuss the music for that Sunday, she suggested that we create our own Christmas cantata by fashioning a series of short meditations around the theme of "Great Joy," the title of the final piece. We look forward to a morning of worship and celebration through music and the spoken word, that will involve the entire congregation. This would be a great opportunity to invite friends or neighbors to share the message of Christmas with us!

I want to thank many people for support of the music program at STHPC - our wonderful accompanist Tiffany Shi; our section leaders Cathy Williams, Naomi Hartwig, and Kevin Schoenfeld; all of the faithful members of the choir who give so generously of their time and hard work; Marylyn Goode, who works overtime to manage our music library; Evie Macway, who makes the work of integrating music into the worship experience such a joy; the wonderful Cameroon choir for sharing their gifts of music every month; our worship elder, Barb Overholt; and all of you, the congregation, for your words of praise and encouragement. It is a true blessing to serve God with you!

After a busy fall, Advent, and Christmas, we are looking to enjoy a couple of weeks of rest from weekly rehearsal, but we will resume singing in church on Sunday, January 6 and resume rehearsals on Thursday, January 9. And remember, I heard all of you sing "Praise the Lord Together" so beautifully as our introit on November 17. We would love to have you sing with us this spring! (I'll be looking for you!!!)

Hugh McDevitt, STHPC Chancel Choir director

EDUCATION MINISTRY

Sunday School is getting exciting these days! We have quite a few energetic children – we are blessed! If you're thinking about how to use your talents, volunteer to be a Sunday School teacher or helper. With the influx of kids, we need a helper weekly now. It's not a hard job, and the rewards are great. See Marilyn Morikang or Pastor Evie if you'd like to know more about this amazing opportunity.

In December, the children will be getting ready for Christmas, just like the adults. We will be preparing, learning about Jesus' family tree, Joseph's dream and the gifts for the King. Join us one Sunday if you'd like to just try it out. We'd love to have you!

Education Ministry Team

December Sunday School Teachers and Helpers

Date	Teacher	Helper
12/8	Cheryl Elliot	Emily Manley
12/15	Marilyn Morikang	Rebecca Elliot
12/22	Claris Ngwa	Alfred Morikang
12/29	Lynn Hines	Emmanuel Ngwa

Thank you!

A special thanks the PW members who created all the Advent gifts Pastor Evie is sharing with the children during the 'Children's Time' in worship this season. Each week Evie is talking about the Advent candle lighting themes with the children and gives them a small hand-made ornament to remind them of the theme.

Thank you Caryl Brown, Barb Overholt, Yvonne Miller, Vivian Harley and Cheryl Elliot for making the ornaments. Be sure and come to worship to see the word of the day and the ornament is each week!



PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Our November meeting was filled with lots of fun making small ornaments that Pastor Evie will pass out to the kids during Children's Time each Sunday in Advent. The ornaments represent the weekly Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. We encourage all parents to bring their children each week so they can participate in this special celebration. On January 11, 10 AM - 12 noon, we will have our PW meeting and will do both lesson #3, "Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments" and Lesson #4.

On Saturday, Nov. 2, many of us got together to pack the nuts for our annual PW fundraiser. We packed 280 pounds of nuts! Our first day of sales on Sunday, Nov. 3, we ran out of 3 kinds of the nuts, so we had to get some more and Paul & Rebecca Elliot packed those extra 75 pounds during the week. Thanks so much for your purchases of the nuts! We will continue selling through the first few weeks of December. After the new year, we will start considering what projects around the church and/or our local community our nut sale proceeds will support.

Save the Date: on Sunday, Dec. 15 after church (12:30 PM - 3 PM) we will have our annual PW Christmas luncheon. We encourage all women of our church to come join us for sandwiches/salads & desserts. We do a cookie exchange, so plan to bring 2 dozen of your favorite cookies, and then you will go home with an assortment of yummy cookies! Barb Overholt has graciously agreed to host again this year. If you need a ride over to Barb's, please indicate that on the signup sheet that will be out on the activity table.

One more date to put on your calendar. Sunday, January 5 PWP will have their annual Epiphany tea at Stone Church from 2 - 4 PM. We begin with tea and dessert and then head into the sanctuary for a special service with readings and Taize type singing. Hope you have a blessed Holiday Season.....

Cheryl Elliot, Moderator



Presbyterian Women
present their annual

Christmas Lunch and Cookie Exchange

Sunday • December 15
12:30 - 3:00 p.m.

The women of STHPC are encouraged to attend this very social event.

Bring your favorite baked cookies
and the recipe to share.

Refreshments and a
festive holiday home await you.

PLEASE R.s.v.p by Friday, December 13 to:

408-264-8318

BarbKygerOverholt@gmail.com

Barb Overholt's Home
1686 Morocco Drive • San José

Please note: cats live in this home.



PW nut packing Nov. 2

Helping Hands



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

Requested items: Gift card and can openers are always needed! Also peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, white noodles, corn, green beans, white rice, and chili. Flip top cans are always welcomed.

Monthly summary: Between Nov. 19 – Dec. 3, 26 people were assisted; 23 people received food and 10 people received bus tokens. Kristie was able to honor requests for One person received cash.

Food donations totaled 245 lbs.! Thank you for donations from STHPC: 160 lbs., St. Julie's: 185 lbs, and Other: 22 lbs. A friend of the church donated 2 frozen turkeys.

*The Deacons
and the Church & World Committee*

Nursery Attendants

12/8 Emily Manley
12/15 Rebecca Elliot
12/22 Alfred Morikang
12/29 Emmanuel Ngwa



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

	October 2019 Month to Date	Through 10/19 Year to Date
Income	\$26,427	\$290,731
Expense	\$30,754	\$274,613
Net Income	-\$4,327	\$16,118

SESSION NOTES

November 12 Session meeting

- Horace Hines, chair of the Pastor Nomination Committee, presented an update and Session approved a budget of \$3,000 that was requested by the PNC to cover expenses related to the search and selection of a pastor. See page 2 for more details.
- The Visibility, Membership and Outreach Ministry is exploring options to increase the visibility of our church, including an increased social media presence and a new sign for the front of the church.
- Preparations for Advent are actively underway led by Pastor Evie and the Worship and Music Ministry team.
- Church and World will have an Alternative Christmas gift offering options available, including Local, Cameroon and Youth-selected projects.
- The Building and Grounds Ministry team has been busy addressing heating issues, looking for a vendor for a new church sign, and completing various projects around the church. Options are being investigated to improve the security of the facility for ourselves and our tenants.
- The church finances are in very good shape. See the Finance information above for the numbers.

Steve DeJarnett, Clerk of Session



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: 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.
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 meeting after worship
Last Sunday:	Brunch at Aqui Restaurant (Blossom Hill & Snell) following worship (around 11:30ish)

Upcoming Events

Sun., Dec 8	Second Sunday of Advent
Wed., Dec. 11 5:30 - 7:30	Advent Gathering/Bible Study
Sun., Dec. 15 12:30 - 3 PM	Third Sunday of Advent - Special Choral Music PW Christmas Lunch (see pg. 9 for details)
Wed., Dec. 18 5:30 - 7:30	Advent Gathering/Bible Study
Sun., Dec. 22	Fourth Sunday of Advent - Caroling Around the Piano after Worship
Tues., Dec. 24 7:30 PM	Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Wed., Dec. 25 10 AM	Cameroon Christmas Service - ALL ARE WELCOME!
Sat., Jan. 11 5:30 - 8:30	As the Ball Drops (Murder Mystery Potluck (details pg. 7)

*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: January 2
for the 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 Service
Tuesday, December 24 7:30 PM
Christmas Day
Cameroon Service 10 AM
All are Welcome!**

