

# Echoes from the Hills

Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church • San Jose, California



## EMANATIONS FROM EVIE

## January Reflections

Not long ago I was given a book entitled, *Rest Your Dreams on A Little Twig*. The book is a collection of poems by Joyce Rupp. Rupp is a member of the Servite (Servants of Mary) community and a poet I have enjoyed for many years. One poem in this collection touched me particularly. Rupp writes:

*Who we are,  
how we are,  
always touches  
into other lives.*

*We may think  
we are alone,  
apart, separate,  
but not so.*

*Our positive  
(or negative)  
energy  
connects, unites,  
draws  
(or repels).*

*Always we touch  
others,  
always.*

I mentioned during the time with children on the last Sunday of 2019 that the beginning of January is a time when I reflect on, and pray about, the year coming to a close and the one just beginning. I imagine many of us do this in one form or another. Trusting to God once more our losses, our griefs, our fears. Giving thanks for our blessings. And lifting up our hopes and our prayers for the possibilities before us.

As 2019 comes to a close and 2020 begins, I give thanks for the ways in which you have touched and continue to touch my life. Each of us does make a difference, to one another here at Santa Teresa Hills, and to the wider world community of which we are a part.

As we begin a new year together I look forward to experiencing the touch of God in the world through you.

Happy New Year,  
Pastor Evie

## CHURCH AND WORLD MINISTRY

### A Different Type of Giving - Alternative Christmas

The Alternative Christmas projects were very successful due to everyone's generosity. The first project was to help 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 have fled to the forest or across the border to Nigeria. You provided \$1120 to help them.

The youth chose 5 projects from the PCUSA giving catalog. They were: bags of moringa seeds, bunk beds for children, families of chickens, container gardens, and community irrigation water pumps. You provided \$1885, which surpassed their goal of \$1600. These projects will help many people!

The 12 backpacks for the homeless will be finished on Sunday, Jan. 12<sup>th</sup>. The C&W committee worked on them Jan. 9 to get things in order. We have \$234 left in our budget to help provide supplies we might be missing.

### JOY Offering

We received \$815 for the Joy Offering on December 22. 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."

### Comunidad LatinoAmericana Fellowship

We had 23 gifts from our congregation for the children of the Comunidad LatinoAmericana Fellowship, the Hispanic church in downtown San Jose. The children were very excited as seen in this photo. Thanks to all who helped!



### Building Tithe

The C&W committee is working to "spend" the building tithe money left from years past. So far we have donated \$1000 to Immanuel House and \$1000 to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. Some of the remaining funds will go towards supplementing the Alternative Christmas projects.

*Cathy Warrick, Church & World Elder*

## DEACON'S DINNER

The Deacon's held their annual Community Dinner on Sat., Dec. 7 from 1 – 3 PM. We had 55 guests sign up and about 45 came, twice as many as last year! They all feasted on turkey, ham, stuffing, gravy, potatoes, yams, cranberry sauce, corn and pumpkin pie. And of course, Santa paid us a visit. The kids were excited to see him! Gifts for both kids and adults were given out via drawing tickets. Thanks to Dominic for calling out the numbers and many thanks to all of our STHPC volunteers for their food and monetary contributions, and their time helping out at the dinner.

*Cheryl Elliot, Deacon Moderator*





# Worship and Music Barb Overholt • Elder

**Sunday, December 8 • “Present Tense Peace”**  
**Romans 15:4-13 • Isaiah 11:1-10**



*Choir Director Lucas Mudoh directs our Cameroon Choir:  
“Go, Tell It on the Mountain,” “Peace Will Reign,”  
“He Came Down That We May Have Life.”*



*Advent Candle Lighters – Jerry and Carol Miller*

*Elder Cheryl Elliot announced the upcoming  
Murder Mystery Dinner.*



*Percussionists (L-R): Lucy and Michael Kwati,  
Alfred Morikang, Emmanuel Ngwa*



*Mojoko Sona • Liturgist*



*Pastor Evie talked about peace with the children and gifted  
them handmade doves to take home.*



## Sunday, December 15 • Advent/Christmas Cantata "Great Joy!"

A beautiful service filled with song and reflection.



*STHPC's Chancel Choir was supplemented with talented singers from choir director Hugh McDevitt's a cappella group and friends of choir members. What beautiful music they made!*

*Horace Hines • Liturgist*



*Advent Candle Lighters  
Hamlet, Gladys, Hamlet, Jr., Daniel*



*Pastor Evie and the children talk about joy and what it means.*



**Sunday, December 22 • “Startling Grace”**  
**Psalm 89:1-4 • Luke 1:28-38**

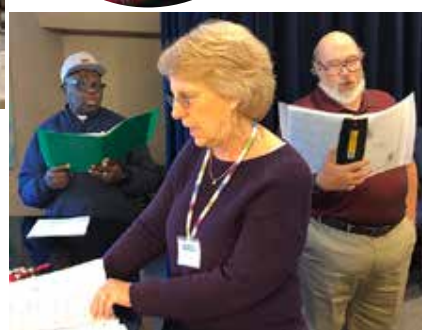


*Pastor Evie gifts the children with handmade heart ornaments to take home.*



*Advent Candle Lighters –  
Jim and Sally McClure*

*Caroling Around the Piano*  
*with Ethan Wu and Tiffany Shi at the Piano*





# Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

## "Festival of Lessons and Carols"



*Advent Candle Lighters – The Elliot Family*



*Miyah Ngwa*



*"Noel in Midnight"  
Harlan Otter • piano*



*Barb Overholt*



*Rhona Souter*



*Teke Ngwa*



*Bob Toche*



*Mojoko Sona*



*Dave Robertson*





## Northern California Christian Women Fellowship Christmas Day Service

*With the sanctuary filled to capacity, parishioners from all over the Bay Area enjoyed the first annual Christmas Day Service sponsored by the Northern California Christian Women Fellowship. A Cameroon feast and lively conversation followed in the Fellowship Hall.*



Gilroy Presbyterian Church and  
STHPC Cameroon Choirs process in.



Mrs. Tata • Minister



Mojoko Sona (Angel) and  
Constance Ebanda (Mary)





## Notes from the Choir Loft

*Blwyddyn Newydd Dda!* If you aren't fluent in Welsh, that means "Happy New Year!" New Year - new plans! This was a busy fall for the choir as we participated in the Hymn Sing concert at Advent Lutheran Church in October, collaborated with the Trinity Presbyterian Church choir in November, and prepared lots and lots (and lots) of music for Advent and Christmas. It was so much fun for Evie and I to collaborate putting together the "Great Joy" cantata in December that we are planning on two more services of music and the spoken word this spring. On Sunday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, we will hold another Hymn Sing Sunday like we had over the summer. This time, though, the choir will pick their favorite hymns. We will all sing them together and share stories about them. Later in the spring, we are thinking about another music service that might feature a musical style we don't often hear in worship. Stay tuned!

One of my musical goals for the choir this spring is to continue to explore the music of other eras and cultures. Our pianist, Tiffany Shi, expressed an interest in singing something by a Russian composer, so we will be singing an anthem we have in our library by the great early 19th-century composer Dmitri Bortniansky. (Luckily for the director and choir, the anthem is in English.) We will also look at music from Latin America and new music by contemporary female composers.

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? Lent starts on Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> and concludes with Easter Sunday on April 12<sup>th</sup>. I'd be happy to talk to you if you have any questions.

Enjoy the rest of the holiday season, and I'll see you in worship!

Hugh McDevitt, STHPC Chancel Choir director

### BUILDINGS & GROUNDS MINISTRY

1. After much discussion with our committee, the 3D Preschool, and Session, we are enclosing the courtyard with fencing and gates, to ensure the safety of our preschoolers, church workers and volunteers. There will be a double gate in the breezeway entrance and a single gate at the back walkway. Entry will be by means of keypads with codes and our existing keys. Installation is planned for the end of January.
2. Thanks to Carol and Jerry Miller and James Mackay for painting the church sheds in the side yard! They now match the rest of our building colors.
3. If your student needs community service hours, please check with Kristie in the office. She has a project list suitable to all abilities.
4. As always if you're interested in helping out, please read the "Project of the Week" in the weekly bulletin announcements or call Kristie in the church office or Dave Robertson.

*Dave Robertson, B&G Elder*

### VISIBILITY/OUTREACH MINISTRY

Boosting our social media presence: Thanks to Thomas Robertson and our other volunteers (Horace Hines and Bill Simmons) we are creating new content and ways to reach out to the community and make known what a special place we have at STHPC.

1. We now have a church Twitter account! Search for "@STHPC" and you'll see postings of our recent Advent services. Make sure to follow us and retweet. All this counts towards boosting our presence when visitors search for churches in San Jose.
2. We also have a YouTube channel. Find it by searching the full church name "Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church". You'll see video clips plus our recent full church services. You can use the YouTube links for Facebook postings and tweets.
3. We're updating our church website. Check out some new pictures and video. We're now posting the most recent full church service on the main page so you can watch if you missed church that week. Find it at [www.sthpc.org](http://www.sthpc.org).



## 2020 Approved Budget

At the December Session meeting the Session approved the operating budget for the church for 2020. Attached is a very brief summary of the budget.

As you can see, because of your generous commitments for the coming year, our pledge and general offering is up significantly over last

year. This has helped us be able to raise our Church and World budget as well as give our staff a 5% salary increase. Other increases include Sunday School curriculum, some increase to our music budget and needed increases for building and grounds maintenance. Thank you again for so generously sharing your time, talents and treasure with our church family at Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church!

*STHPC Finance Committee*

Approved Budget	2019	2020
INCOME		
Pledges and Offerings	\$194,020	\$216,710
Special offerings	\$6,076	\$5,575
Building Rentals	\$130,108	\$136,002
Other income	\$900	\$900
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>\$331,104</b>	<b>\$359,187</b>
EXPENSES		
Building and Grounds	\$53,629	\$60,614
Office supplies/equipment	\$6,200	\$6,300
Pastor's compensation	\$155,922	\$163,378
Personnel	\$59,630	\$63,045
Church and World (Mission)	\$15,375	\$21,675
Worship and Music	\$8,060	\$9,310
Education	\$1,350	\$1,600
Outreach/Communications	\$5,300	\$4,800
Fellowship	\$1,200	\$1,400
Taxes/ Insurance/Per capita	\$15,358	\$15,913
Miscellaneous Expenses	\$3,000	\$3,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$325,024</b>	<b>\$351,035</b>

## FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY

Of course we had a great time caroling around the piano on Dec. 22! A big thanks to Ethan Li for his excellent playing and also to Tiffany Shi. Bill Simmons again directed "The 12 Days of Christmas" it was a treat.

Coming up, we have our Annual Super Bowl Party in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, Feb. 2 at 3:00. We have the giant screen ready to go and everyone can bring their favorite game-watching snacks and goodies. We'll also have games to play – with prizes! We plan to move comfy sofas and chairs in, but if you have a favorite portable chair please bring it. Sign-up at the Activity Table so we'll know how many people will attend.

*Paul Elliot, Fellowship Elder*

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

There were five of us at our annual PW Christmas luncheon on Sunday afternoon, Dec. 15. We enjoyed sandwiches and salad and then did our cookie exchange. Thanks to Barb Overholt for hosting this event at her house again this year. We also prepared several Christmas cards that were sent out to those in our congregation who are homebound, and can't get out much. I received notes back from some of them indicating their deep appreciation of us thinking of them.

Sunday, Jan. 5<sup>th</sup> at Stone Church, PWP had their annual Epiphany tea. We began with tea and dessert and then headed into the sanctuary for a special service with readings and taize singing.

On Saturday, January 11 we had our regular PW meeting and caught up on our 'Love Carved in Stone: A Fresh Look at the Ten Commandments' PWP bible study. We did lessons #3 and #4. We also discussed how we would like to invest our 2019 nut proceeds (about \$750) in our church and local community. We definitely need new Beverage Dispensers, so we will be purchasing those. If any of you have other ideas, please let Cheryl Elliot know. We will make a decision at our February meeting.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> from 10 - noon in the Multi-Purpose Room. We will be doing lesson #5 and perhaps a fun Valentines craft.

Respectively submitted,  
*Cheryl Elliot, Moderator*



# 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. **Toiletries are this month's  
special request.**

*Monthly summary:* Between December 4 - January  
5, 8 people were assisted; 7 people received  
food and 1 person received bus tokens. Kristie was  
able to honor requests for 2 gift cards. (The Office  
was closed from Dec. 24 - Jan. 6)

*Food donations totaled* 315 lbs. Thank you for  
donations from STHPC: 130 lbs., St. Julie's: 185 lbs.

*The Deacons  
and the Church & World Committee*

## 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 December:

Barry and Angela Pumphrey, Barb Overholt, Dave  
Robertson, Chris De La Roca, Laurie Boggs, Dave  
Macway, Constance Ebanda, Marylyn Goode.

## Our LITURGISTS in December:

Verlin Mudoh, Barb Overholt, Mojoko Sona, Horace  
Hines, Steve DeJarnett.

## Appreciation to Our Advent Candle Lighting Families:

Toche and Ebanda Families • Jerry and Carol Miller •  
Ndifon Family • Jim and Sally McClure • Elliot Family.

## Nursery Attendants

1/19 Neville Mudoh  
1/29 Emily Manley  
2/2 Yolanda Wu  
2/9 Rebecca Elliot  
2/16 Gladys Ndifon  
2/23 Hamlet Ndifon



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

	Dec 2019 Month to Date	Through 12/19 Year to Date
Income	\$29,486	\$355,452
Expense	\$31,233	\$335,644
Net Income	-\$1,747	\$19,808

## THANK YOU FROM PASTOR EVIE

Thank you Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church  
Family for the generous Christmas bonus you gave  
to me this holiday season. Some of the money has  
already gone to support my knitting and sewing  
habits :). I am having fun considering what to do  
with the rest.

Thank you also for your support and care for me this  
year that I have been with you. It is a joy for me to  
get to know you and work with you. You share your  
faith and your caring generously with me and with  
my family. I look forward to the time we will share in  
2020.

With love, Pastor Evie

## JANUARY/FEBRUARY Sunday School

### Teachers and Helpers

Date	Teacher	Helper
1/19	Claris Ngwa	Emily Manley
1/26	Kate Manley	Rebecca Elliot

2/2	Lynn Hines	Yolanda Wu
2/9	Cheryl Elliot	Rebecca Elliot
2/16	Claris Ngwa	Gladys Ndifon
2/23	Marilyn Morikang	Hamlet Ndifon





## Reasons to Celebrate!

### Birthdays

January 4	Epie Sona
January 6	Jim McClure, DeLynn Coop
January 10	Tonge Sona
January 17	Emily Manley
January 19	Laura Davis
January 21	Jerry Miller
January 26	Edward Koborssy
January 31	Jerry McMinn
February 1	Philmon Mosi
February 2	Laura Davis
February 15	Vivian Harley
February 18	Carol Miller
February 21	Cheryl Elliot
February 22	Kate Manley
February 23	Alex Manley

### Anniversaries

January 19	Ruth and Howard LeBas
January 26	Carol and Jerry Miller

### 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](mailto: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:	Breakfast at Aqui Restaurant (Blossom Hill & Snell) following worship (around 11:30ish)

## Upcoming Events

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Every Sunday is Two Can Sunday!

Sunday, Feb. 2  
3:00 PM - Super Bowl party  
in the Fellowship Hall  
Bring an appetizer or  
... to share  
(see pg. 9 for details.)

Wednesday,  
February 26 Ash Wednesday

*Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church,  
The Reverend Evie Macway, Transitional Pastor*  
[www.sthpc.org](http://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: February 12  
for March Newsletter**

**email your information to Lynn Hines at [not57@sbcglobal.net](mailto:not57@sbcglobal.net)**

Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church  
5370 Snell Ave.  
San Jose, CA 95123

Phone: 408-629-5906

