

Echoes from the Hills

Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church • San Jose, California



COOP'S CORNER

"What I Learned this Summer"

I understand that not all my "Summer Sermon Series" are a hit with everyone. But, since I get to choose what the series will be on, they usually are with me! ☺

This summer, I chose to preach on the *Heroes of Our Christian Faith*. It never fails that as I began doing my research on each of the "Heroes", I ended up learning much more than you all did. I always, as a result of all the information I gleaned, had to trim my sermons down, often way, way down, or else we would be running 30-60 minutes overtime. Thankfully, for all of you, I was able to do that. ☺

I thought this month I would share with you some of those things that have bubbled to the top from all that I have learned or read.

I have to admit that one of my favorites was that crazy little man, St. Francis of Assisi. He is the one who gave up all his wealth and status to serve the poor and destitute. I am not sure I could do that, but his example is a shining light for all of us to follow. I mean if he could give up all, why is it so hard for me to give up even just 10%?

Then there was William Tynsdale. He was the first to translate the Bible from the original languages, Hebrew and Greek, into English, allowing for the common man (and woman) to read the Bible in the comfort of their own homes. I often wonder if I take enough advantage of what he made possible for all of us.

John Calvin, one of the forefathers of the Presbyterian Church, emphasized the importance of preachers and the sermon and it being based on scripture. That means I have a job! ☺ It means that we value the Bible, all the more reason to READ IT.

I included Paul (oops, I mean) John Bunyan, mainly because he once said something that has stuck with me, "You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you." Shouldn't that be a part of our own creed? I believe that is a portion of what it means to live out our Christian faith, don't you?

"A private faith that does not act in the face of oppression is no faith at all." Thus spoke William Wilberforce, the English politician who helped stop the slave trade in the 1800's. That should say something to all of us. What good does it do to speak a good game, if our actions don't follow suit? If more of us lived a life as devoted to doing, not just saying, this world (and our own lives) would be infinitely better.

Now we get to one of my all-time favorites: Dietrich Bonhoeffer. He not only lived what he believed, he was willing to (and did) die for his beliefs. But maybe one of his greatest contributions to us was his conception of "cheap" versus "costly" grace. Yes, grace is free to all of us, but that grace should result in a life lived in service of God ... and that is costly! (Google it for a more detailed treatment).

I really enjoyed learning about C.S. Lewis, someone I knew little about. I admit, I have not (yet) read any of his books, however my interest is now sufficiently peaked that I plan to read, at the very least, *Mere Christianity*. I loved what he said about our faith. He argued that "Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and, if true, of infinite importance. The one thing it cannot be is moderately important."

And then we come to Mother Teresa. There is so much we could say about her, much of it, though, has been said about others who preceded her. I guess what I would like to lift up is where she said: "It matters to the individual what church he belongs to. Therefore, if that individual thinks and believes that this is the only way to God for her or him, this is the way God comes into their life. If they do not know any other way and if they have no doubt so that they do not need to search, then this is their way to salvation." What if we all viewed one another in this way, with respect and with dignity?

I will be ending this series with Pope Francis, the current Pope of the Catholic Church and my favorite Pope, on Sunday, September 11.

As I read over what we have learned this summer, one thing is clear: to live a life worth living, one must live a life of service, having respect and love for all.

I mean, God does, so why shouldn't we?

Well, that's all folks. Have a great month and hopefully I will see you all on Sunday!

Pastor Tom

CHURCH AND WORLD MINISTRY

Got Magazines? you know.... those big piles of magazines sitting on the coffee table in your family room you need to purge? Well, Jerry McMinn has the answer for you. As an active part of the Santa Clara County Correctional Ministry, Jerry shared with our team a need for gently used magazines for the inmates. If you're like me you have piles to get rid of, so why not give them to a good cause? Look for a receptacle in the patio or just grab Jerry McMinn or DeLynn Coop. Make sure the personal address labels are cut out or blackened and that the subject matter is "appropriate" ☺.

Peacemaking Offering: You will soon receive a detailed letter with all you need to know, but we are delighted to name *Immanuel House* as the local recipient of 25% of the 2016 Peacemaking Offering to be received on October 9. As part of worship on October 2, one of the Immanuel House residents will offer a Moment for Mission, sharing his personal journey. On October 9 we'll hear from Rev. Geoff Browning, our San Jose Presbytery Peacemaking Advocate, also a Chaplain at Stanford University. Watch for a service opportunity in mid to late October to be a "food angel" - shop for and deliver food and staples to the Immanuel House residents.

PACKING party with-FOOD for ALL: STHPC has 10 slots to assemble mobile food packs on

Friday evening, **September 23, at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church.** The sign-up sheet is on the Activity Table on the patio. This is a really fun meaningful activity, especially when you consider what these small packets of nutrition mean to those in developing countries that don't have the easy access to food most of us have.

Mission Faire, Saturday, September 25, noon: Are you curious to see what other churches are doing in the area of mission? Check out the activities our San Jose Presbytery and national denomination PCUSA are engaged in that address hunger, refugee and immigrant needs, homelessness and more. You are welcome to attend the Presbytery meeting (as a non-voting visitor) *September 25, 9 AM at Westhope Presbyterian Church, 12850 Saratoga Avenue, Saratoga 95070*, or just come to the Faire after the meeting, around noon, and stay for lunch (for a donation). It's fun!! Let Pastor Tom or one of our official Elder representatives know if you plan on attending.

Backpacks: Santa Maria Urban Ministry thanked us for the 25 school backpacks. As Church and World Elder, I want to again acknowledge our Church and World Ministry Team for coordination, to all those who brought supplies, to the youth who packed them, and special thanks to Cathy Warrick and husband Joe Buttle for running

around shopping for last minute missing items and delivering the backpacks.

Interfaith Service: I want to acknowledge Pastor Tom for coordinating a wonderful evening of speakers from the Muslim, Jewish and

Pentecostal Christian faiths. Although few of us were able to attend, it was a great beginning!! Thanks to DeLynn Coop for helping out and for the yummy refreshments too.

Linda Buckley, Church & World Elder

ADULT ED MINISTRY

This fall there will be a Sunday morning study using the Upper Room devotional guide. It will start at 9:00 AM, and end before worship begins. The Upper Room will be available in the church office or on the table outside. Watch for information about other studies that become available. Feel free to use the lectionary scriptures from the Presbyterian website. Anytime is a good time to read and study God's word. Join us to share and grow in your faith.

Carol Miller, Adult Education Elder

YOUTH MINISTRY

We are excited to welcome our newest members Teke and Mason to our youth group for the new school year. The Youth Group continues to be for 5th grade and up.

Our members now include: Owen, Rogan, Kelsey, Rhona, Isabl, Mason, and Kelsey H. We are still on the search for a new youth director, but in the meantime, classes are being run by Kate and Emily Manley. Our youth will be starting a confirmation class on October 16, 2016. The classes will run for 6 weeks after Sunday service. There will be a \$20.00 fee for workbook materials.

A little bit about the class: "re:form Traditions" gives youth the tools they need to deeply explore their particular faith tradition with witty videos, engaging individual and group activities, and an online forum for sharing what they've learned along the way." Please RSVP to Kate Manley or PastorTom.



Kate Manley, Youth Elder

VISIBILITY/ SESSION NOTES

Session Notes:

- Joy Lee, Horace Hines and Paul Elliot were elected as Commissioners from Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church for the September 24, 2016 Presbytery meeting.
- STHPC will contract SteepleCom to determine if any cellular carriers would be interested in placing a cell tower on our property. If they find a carrier who is interested AND if Session approves, SteepleCom will receive 20% of the proceeds and STHPC will receive 80%.
- During repair of the siding to the Multipurpose Room, termite damage was found and remediated in that area. The termite inspectors believe that termite damage is likely to be present elsewhere. We will be tenting and fumigating the main church buildings (all but the Fellowship Hall.)

We are engaging the organization Worship Times to revise our website. The target is to have a more modern website with mobile-friendly attributes and better search engine optimization. When people are looking for a new church they will likely search via the internet on their smart phones or tablets and we hope to have our website come up near the top of the list. Look for a website launch in a few weeks! And be sure to post a review of our church on Yelp!

Bill Simmons, Visibility Elder

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS MINISTRY

You may notice a new look to our church! We are in the process of completing painting the church Malibu Beige with Tahoe Blue trim. This should help set us apart from the apartments on either side. Also, a work party of hearty souls fixed up the outside (notice the new look of the front berm) and the inside of our church. Thank you so much to Dave and Tommy Robertson, Marylyn Goode, Jay Hartley, Kate and Mike Manley, and Laura Davis. Thank you SO much!

Mike Manley, Buildings & Grounds Elder

Worship and Music Dave Robertson • Elder

Praying for Peace

Sunday evening of August 14 proved to be a beautiful beginning of what is hoped to be a continuing “event” involving interfaith prayer services. A small group of individuals attended the evening’s service lead by Pastor Tom who was accompanied by individuals from different faiths providing backgrounds about their particular faith from Muslim to Jewish to Christian. Each individual offered a Prayer for Peace and attendees were encouraged to light a candle in remembrance. This was a lovely service offered to help heal what is surely a very broken and troubled time for everyone – spiritually, politically, and emotionally. A time of fellowship with refreshments were provided in the court yard after the service.

– Barb Overholt



A beautiful beginning.

Pastor Tom with (l-r) Pastor Isabela Nyakundi from Vessel for Honor, Sabuhi Siddique from Ahmadiyya Mosque, and Jeannine Bokor from Congregation Shir Hadash.



Cathy Williams and Joe Taff sing “Seekers of Your Heart” on August 14.

Special Summer Music

Thanks to *Mary Kohlmler, Michael Kuo, Dave Robertson, Joe Taff, and Cathy Williams* for their solos, duets, trios, and quartets.

Ushers and Worship Leaders!

Thanks to our worship leaders in August: *Linda Buckley, Marylyn Goode, DeLynn Coop, and Barb Overholt*. Please contact Dave Robertson if you’re interested in being a worship leader (it’s a rewarding experience and only a little bit scary the first time).

Ushers: Thanks to our volunteer ushers during August: *Rebecca Elliot, Cheryl and Paul Elliot, Kate and Mike Manley*.

Usher coordinator *Rebecca Elliot* schedules ushers and would appreciate members signing up for a Sunday in the next several months. The sign-up sheet is on the Activity Table in the court yard every Sunday after worship.

Coming Up:

Saturday, September 10 • 9:00 a.m.

Help decorate the sanctuary for Homecoming Sunday and Autumn services (Consumption of donuts a must!)

October 2 • Communion

Come Join the Choir!

Our fantastic choir, under the direction of Joe Taff and accompanist Michael Kuo, has started up. We rehearse every Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m. Our first worship service is on Homecoming Sunday, September 11. Please see Joe if you’re interested in joining or just to sit in on a rehearsal to see what it’s like.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

Fall is just around the corner so we are getting ready to embark on a new set of Sunday School Curriculum. Our lessons are geared to serve PreK-1st Graders and 2nd-4th graders. The theme for September is 'Who is God?' We will learn about God - the creator, the protector, who is with us always, and being faithful forever. The unit for October will be about 'Great is God's Faithfulness'. We are blessed with such a great Sunday School team who are themselves very faithful to their mission. However, we do need to seek out a new Lead teacher, as Debbie Serasio will be tending to her ill father back East for several months. Lynn Hines has graciously agreed to fill in a few of the slots, but I need to look for a more permanent solution. So please pray about whether you might be able to help out as lead teacher or even as a helper (we could use a few extra to help cover when folks are out of town). Lesson Plans are provided for each week, so its really quite easy to prepare. You would only do one lesson a month.

Congratulations to Teke Ngwa and Mason Paterson for being promoted up to Youth Group. Fifth graders and up are now part of Youth Group, and we now have a large number of kids in the group which is so great to see. Kate Manley and her daughter Emily have been doing a superb job of keeping these kids engaged in their walk with God.

Cheryl Elliot, Children's Ed Elder

Sunday School Teachers and Helpers:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Lead Teacher</u>	<u>SS Helper</u>
September 11	Gertrud Walker	Sharon Simmons
September 18	Marilyn Morikang	Yolanda Wu
September 25	DeLynn Coop	Emmanuel Ngwa
October 2	Lynn Hines	Clariss Ngwa
October 9	Gertrud Walker	Sharon Simmons
October 16	Marilyn Morikang	Yolanda Wu

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Our first Presbyterian Women meeting will be Tuesday, Sept. 20 at 7:30 PM in STHPC's Multi-Purpose Room. I am very excited to get started on the Presbytery Women's new bible study for 2016/2017 entitled "Who is Jesus? What a Difference a Lens Makes". We will be led on a journey to expand our understanding of who Jesus was and is...a journey of our hearts and minds, a journey that we will take together. We will explore 'Who is Jesus' through nine different theological lens: according to Mark, Matthew, Luke, John, Paul, the Hebrews, the non-canonical gospels, the Abrahamic faiths and lastly according to the contemporary cultural interpretations. There is great Bible Study book that goes along with the DVD monthly presentation. I have copies available and cost is only \$8. Remember, you can join in at any time with this study as each month will be a new lesson.

Our following few PW meetings are tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 22 at 10 AM and Tuesday, November 15 at 7:30 PM, so please mark your calendars. At our September meeting, we will discuss what other activities we would like to do at our meetings, and request snack signups (I'll be covering 9/20!).

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 August 1 and Sept. 4, 31 people were assisted; 23 people received food and 19 people received bus tokens. Kristie was able to honor requests for 1 gift card. One person received cash.

Food donations totaled 185 lbs. Thank you for donations from St. Julie's: 118 lbs. and Other: 67 lbs. Unfortunately STHPC did not donate any food during this time.

The Deacons and the Church & World Committee

Nursery Attendants

- 9/11 Nan Brown
- 9/18 Courtney Mays
- 9/25 Ashley Fitzgerald
- 10/2 Alfred Morikang
- 10/9 Nan Brown
- 10/16 Courtney Mays



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.

Cheryl Elliot, Children's Ed Elder



Income and Expenses

	August 2016 Month to Date	Through 8/16 Year to Date
Income	\$19,069	\$175,861
Expense	\$22,515	\$185,453
Net Income	-\$3,446	-\$9,592

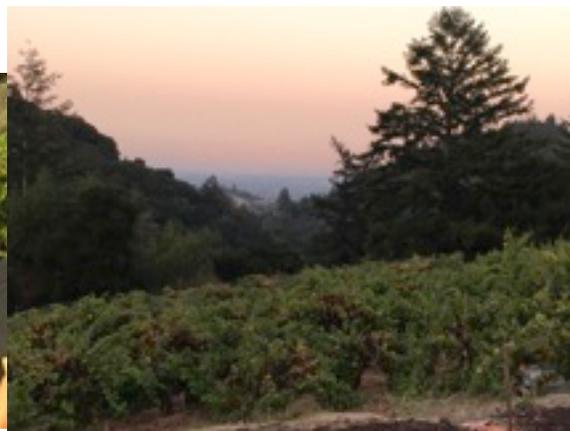
FELLOWSHIP MINISTRY



Fun, food and MUSIC highlighted the evening at Savannah-Chanelle winery in late August. Seventeen people gathered to eat, drink, dance, and listen to music. A great time was had by all!

Watch for our next Fellowship event. We promise more fun, fellowship and food! Come, get to know your fellow STHPCers better. Watch for more information in the Sunday bulletins.

Lynn Hines, Fellowship Elder





Reasons to Celebrate!

Birthdays

- Sept. 9 *Brandon Manley, Cathy Warrick
Hersh Brown*
- Sept. 12 *Mary Paterson*
- Sept. 13 *June McCullough*
- Sept. 17 *Rebecca Elliot
Rick Needham*
- Sept. 21 *Claire McFeely*
- Sept. 28 *Geoffrey Elliot*
- Oct. 4 *Stefano Sunseri*
- Oct. 5 *Danielle Keathley*
- Oct. 6 *Mosima Sona*
- Oct. 7 *Kristie Reed*
- Oct. 9 *Horace Hines*
- Oct. 10 *Claire Calzia*
- Oct. 12 *Glenda Nolt*
- Oct. 15 *Paul Elliot, Carolyn Calzia,
David McFeely*
- Oct. 16 *Jay Hartley*

After Worship Treats!

Remember to sign up at the Activity Table to bring treats to share after worship. Treats provide a fellowship opportunity to help us get to know each other better.

Newsletter Staff

Editor: Lynn Hines

Proofreader/Publisher:

Kristie Reed

Elder: Bill Simmons

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*



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
- All Other Sundays: Church Library Open 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

Sun, Sept. 11

@ 9 AM Homecoming Breakfast
@ 10 AM Worship Service

Fri, Sept 23

6 - 8 PM Mobile Food Pack
(info pg. 3)



Santa Teresa Hills Presbyterian Church,

The Reverend Tom Coop, Pastor

www.sthpc.org

Adult Sunday School: 9:00 AM (child care available)

Worship: 10:00 AM

Sunday School PreK - high school 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: October 7

for October/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



You can help our local families in need!

Bring

TWO CANS* of food EACH SUNDAY.

*We CANNOT accept canned food that has expired
or food that is not in its original sealed container.