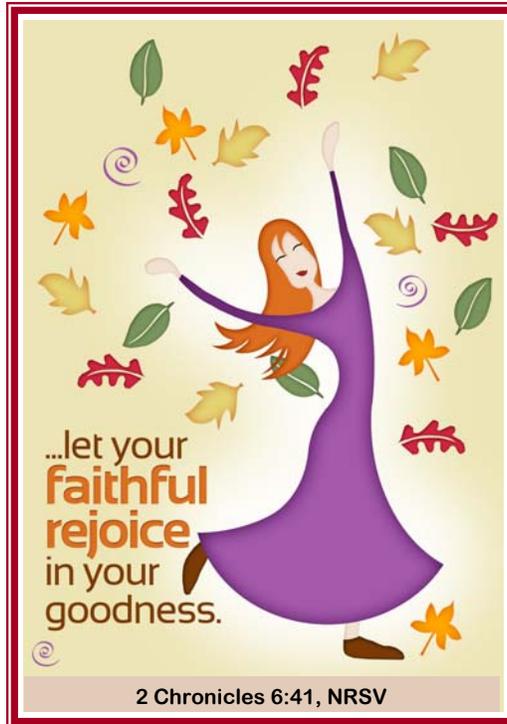


FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

SEPT. 2012

EXPERIENCING CHRIST'S LOVE, EXTENDING CHRIST'S HANDS SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA

First Presbyterian Church of San Jose • 49 N. Fourth St., San Jose, CA 95112 • (408) 297-7212 • fpcsj@yahoo.com • www.fpcsj.org



Wed. Sept. 26 and Sunday, Sept. 23 - **Bible study for all of us led by Judy Lococo and John Fukawawa (Sunday), and Charlotte Powers and Carol Lathrop (Wed.) on Paul's letters** (pick Wednesday 10 a.m. or Sunday after church - 12 noon.)

Thurs., Sept. 27, 6:30 p.m.- **Potluck Dinner and Discussion with Mission Worker from Central Asia**(see page 4 for more details)

Fri., September 28 - **Game Night**, 7 p.m.

Sun., Sept. 30 - **Change for Change change due...bring your piggy banks to church!**

Sun., Sept. 30, 10:30 a.m. - **International Peace maker Linda Macktaby from Lebanon will preach**



Oct. 6 - **International Dinner** - more details soon!

Oct. 14 - **Pet Blessing**, 1 p.m.

Oct. 14 - **Town Park Towers 40th Anniversary**, 1-4 p.m.

Oct. 26 - **Game Night**, 7 p.m.

All members of the church must have a parking permit on their car windshield. If there is no sticker their car is subject to being towed. Get stickers from Karleen in the church office.



Thanks,
Richard Stewart, Elder
Facilities Chair

Sharings from Sharon

“Draw close to God, and God will draw close to you.” ~
James 4:8

Dear Members and Friends:

I had a conversation with a man today who was sitting on the front bench of the church. He said that God felt far away. Given his circumstances I can understand why he felt the way he did. Yet, as I have thought about his words I am reminded of all the men and women I have had the privilege of knowing whose lives have been framed by tragedy, loss, and pain who have confidently declared their faith in a caring compassionate God.

It is funny how things work out. As I was thinking about this monthly letter to you, I was searching my book shelves, seeking some kind of Divine Inspiration. I came across a little book for teens called “Connect2God” by Curt Cloninger. As I thumbed through I stopped at a page that was entitled *Come Closer*. It was a letter from God and it went like this:

“If you feel like I’m far away from you, don’t wait for Me to find you. Pray! Cry out to Me! Seek Me! Take time out of your day to sit still and listen for Me. I’m there, but sometimes there are things that cloud your heart that make it difficult for you to hear Me. Press through all the thoughts that call for your attention and focus on Me.

For every step you take toward Me, I’ll take two steps toward you. I am just waiting for you to search for Me. Get involved in our relationship. If you look for Me with your whole heart, you will always find Me. I promise.

Your Friend, God.”

To my new friend on the bench, I would say “God is here, right in the midst of our conversation, waiting for you to seek God’s presence.”

As September dawns we come ready to begin our Fall programs. We have classes beginning in mid- month for everyone in the church. We are offering a Wednesday morning Bible Study and a Sunday morning class that will begin after church. Both classes will last for 6 weeks and will focus on one of Paul’s letters to the church. We are also offering the opportunity for women to join a **Presbyterian Women’s** group. **A new member’s class is beginning on Saturday, September 22 at 9:00am.**

Pastor Sharon’s letter (continued)

Opportunities for service abound. We desperately need people to help with the Front Door Ministry. We have several committees that need new members on them to help the work of the church continue. A new team is forming to discern the **Bright Future** of our church and God may be calling you to serve in this capacity. **We always need Worship Leaders, Sunday School Teachers, Choir Members, and Greeters**, to name just a few of the responsibilities that need to be filled by you.

I know the value of setting quiet time apart to seek God, but I have also learned that we meet God when we are involved in the life of the church and with our brothers and sisters in faith. God put us in communities for a reason. It gives our lives a strong foundation and allows us to live out our faith in structured ways that has checks and balances. In community God can teach us the things that we need to learn in a safe and loving environment.

So, I guess I am saying to each of us is “get involved”. God has a plan for our Church and you are part of the plan. Joyfully, in Christ’s Service,

Pastor Sharon



September Birthdays!

Eric Johnson	Sept. 5
Sharon Johnson	Sept. 10
Shahnaz Abbasi	Sept. 23
James Powers	Sept. 30



5th Service
Worship
Day
Sunday
September 30, 2012

"Don't GO to church; BE the church!"



Monthly Food Drive for the Hungry People Served by Sacred Heart Community Services

FOOD DRIVE

In August and September, we gave 140 lbs. of useful canned and packaged food to **Sacred Heart Community Services**. So far this year, we have donated 469 lbs. of food, and 3,910 lbs. of food since we began our monthly food drive in June, 2009.



Front Door Ministry

In August we made and gave out **1,425** lunches for some **386** people. So far this year, we have served **7,512** bag lunches!



Blessed to Give

International Gift Fair

Sat., Oct. 20, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Lincoln Glen Church
 2700 Booksin Ave., San Jose 95125

This is an annual Fair Trade arts and craft show and sale from artisans from developing countries represented by Ten Thousand Villages. This is a great way to start your holiday shopping...many affordable treasures!



CHANGE FOR CHANGE
Sept. 30 - Coins Due

How is your coin-saving going?

We are collecting coins for **Heifer International** (www.heifer.org) for their mission to give pairs of sheep, goats, pigs, or chickens to poor people in developing countries so they can breed them, use their wool, drink their milk, eat their eggs, etc.

At the International Dinner, Oct. 6, we'll vote on which animals to invest in, so be thinking!

Visit Heifer's website so you can learn more about the good work they do! (www.heifer.org)

Second Harvest Food Bank Visited Our Front Door Ministry



On August 30, Nutritionists from Second Harvest Food Bank visited our Front Door Ministry to help homeless clients learn about nutrition and healthy eating practices. They passed out meal plans, a flyer about staying healthy, a Power Bar and a can opener. About seventy-five people were served in our parking lot.



"Make us one, Lord, make us one,
 Holy Spirit, make us one.
 Let your love show, so the world
 will know,
 We are one in You."

- Pat Hare (Sharon's mom)

**Have Dinner with Mission Co-Worker
From Central Asia**
Sept. 27, 6:30 p.m.

Once again, we are about to be blessed by a visit by PC USA Mission Co-Worker from Central Asia. She been a missionary for the past ten years and does social service work in a poor community. While there, she has learned to converse in several languages and has become a useful and valued member of her new community.

Join us for dinner and discussion with our guest and hear her warm stories of friendship and learning in a far-off, remote, and interesting new home.

Before becoming a mission worker, she was an accountant in high tech firms and attended the Sunnysvale church for many years.

Sign up in the Narthex sign-up place to bring part of the dinner. Don't miss this interesting evening!



**FPC & Kiwanis School Supplies Delight
Washington School Kindergartens**

On August 15, Pastor Sharon, Jo and John Fukasawa and Lori Tierney visited the first day of school at our favorite elementary school (Washington...GO DRAGONS!) and delivered school supplies purchased (by super-shopper Jo Fukasawa) with a grant from our generous friends at the downtown Kiwanis Club, and assembled by our members.

In the picture above Principal Maria Evans in her over-the-top enthusiastic best is looking into the box she has opened and saying to the little children, "Oh students, how wonderful is this? New school supplies for all of you from these nice people! Let's clap our hands so they will know how happy we are!" It doesn't get much better than this.

Thank you Kiwanis Club for your generosity to our church and to Washington School!!

Welcome to the world, Chiarra Jacobs!



Here is **Chiarra Jacobs**, Caitlin and Raja Jacobs new little girl, born August 8th. She's a cutie! Caitlin promises, even though they've moved to Tracy, to bring her by to show her off sometime later this month when Chiarra is used to being "in crowds." What a blessing!



**What does love
look like?**

"It has the hands to help others, and the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has the eyes to see misery and want, and the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of those in need."

~ St. Augustine

Free 'Ukulele Lessons in September

Are you interested in learning how to play the 'ukulele? Dawn is currently teaching free 'ukulele classes at First Presbyterian Church of San Jose and at Foothill Presbyterian Church.

'Ukulele for Beginners

(Soprano, Concert or Tenor 'ukulele)

Sunday September 9 5:00 PM

Sunday September 16 5:00 PM

Sunday September 23 5:00 PM

Sunday September 30 5:00 PM

Location:

First Presbyterian Church (Social Hall)
49 N. 4th St., San Jose, CA 95112

'Ukulele for Intermediate Beginners

(Soprano, Concert or Tenor 'ukulele)

Tuesday September 11 9:00 am

Tuesday September 18 9:00 am

Tuesday September 25 9:00 am

Location:

Foothill Presbyterian Church (Library)
5301 McKee Road, San Jose, CA 95127-2292

Baritone 'Ukulele for Beginners

The Baritone 'Ukulele is tuned differently from the other types of 'ukuleles

Wednesday September 12 9:00 am

Wednesday September 19 9:00 am

Wednesday September 26 9:00 am

Location:

Foothill Presbyterian Church (Library)
5301 McKee Road, San Jose, CA 95127-2292

If you are interested in taking these free lessons at either location, **please email Dawn at dawn_imada@yahoo.com**. She can also tell you where to purchase an 'ukulele or a baritone 'ukulele if you don't already have one.

If these days and times don't work for you, other class possibilities include Saturdays at 5:00 pm or later, or Sunday afternoons.

When two or more people decide upon a day and time, Dawn can create a new class.



A Simple Grace Before Eating



For food in a world where many walk in hunger;
For faith in a world where many walk in fear;
For friends in a world where many walk alone;
We give you thanks, O Lord. Amen.

Rich Stewart Traveled to Boston for the World War II War Brides Association Reunion



Recently **Rich Stewart** returned from the national gathering of members of the **WWII War Brides Association**, for which he serves as Vice President.

Besides seeing Boston sites,

Rich had an opportunity to catch up with living war brides and their families.

Rich's mother, as you may know, became a war bride when his father served in Italy during World War II and fell in love with his mother-to-be, a young Italian woman. We had the pleasure at last year's International Dinner of not only meeting Rich's mother, but seeing photos of her wedding, as well as the photos and stories of many of the other war brides.



♥ Many thousands of young women came to the United States after WWII as war brides of servicemen who were returning from combat in Europe, Japan, and Australia. The War Brides Association was first formed to celebrate this historical event, but has continued as the brides have passed away by the participation of their sons and daughters who honor their parents unique marriages and place in our nation's history.



Interestingly, **Stepan Rudenko**, our talented piano and organ accompanist, was in Boston at the same time (it's a small world!) and he and his talented lady-friend **Sheena Guitierrez** performed at Rich's event!

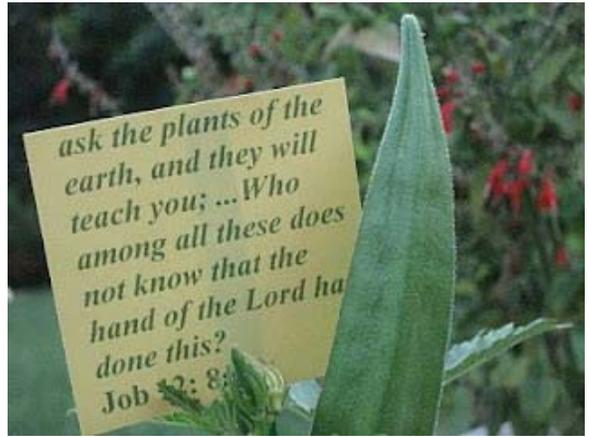


Photo by Rich Stewart

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

~ John 3:16



Miracles Abound

Look at this pretty flower that popped out recently on an un-watered bush in the back part of the garden. It appeared out of the blue and is as pretty as a flower can be. No one planted it (well not recently!) and it has had very little/no maintenance. And yet, growing it is. How many miracles happen that we miss by not looking for them?

“All tithes from the land, whether the seed from the ground or the fruit from the tree, are the Lord’s; they are holy to the Lord.” ~ Leviticus 27:30



Presbyterian Women Circles Start at FPC

Starting October 5 we will have at least one Presbyterian Women “Circle” at our church. We will be joining many churches in the Presbytery and hundreds of churches around the country.

Each year PW selects a bible study and commissions a talented female pastor to write it. This year PW will study *Dispatches to God’s Household: The General Epistles* by the Rev. Nancy Benson-Nicol.

Presbyterian Women have a magazine that comes out every two months called “Horizons” which does thoughtful essays on subjects of faith, mission, and church life.

On Sept. 8, Pastor Sharon, Pat Plant and Dawn Imada traveled to San Francisco Theological Seminary to participate in a training on the bible study featuring the study’s author.



An Afternoon of Music and Hula August 18th

On August 18th we were blessed with a lovely “Downtown Sounds” Concert featuring two talented performing groups, the Wesley United Methodist Church of Japantown Ukulele Band, and the Halou Napuaokamokihana’ohailapolioluana Dance Group (featuring our own Teresa Johnson), and our Hawaiian friend and banjo and piano virtuoso, C. D. Ka’ala Carmack.



The Wesley Ukulele Band



C.D. Ka’ala Carmack



Teresa Johnson’s Halou
“Lovely Hula Hands”



Praise God, from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him all creatures here below,
Praise Him above, ye heavenly Host,
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Doxology



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church of San Jose
49 North Fourth St.
San Jose, CA 95112

OUR MISSION:

At **First Presbyterian Church of San Jose**, we are a Spirit-led Community of Faith where the life and love of Jesus Christ is felt and shared.

For more information, please contact:

- The Reverend Sharon Hare, Pastor
- Karleen Duchscherer, Administrator
- Church office (408) 297-7212
- email: fpcsj@yahoo.com
- Website: www.fpcsj.org

Newsletter Submissions

Please submit items to **Greg or Pat Plant**. Any format works (in person, church mailbox, email gregplant@comcast.net).

Deadline for the **October, 2012** edition is **Monday, Sept. 24, 2012**.



FRIENDS, VISITORS, NEWCOMERS:

JOIN US THIS SUNDAY!

Worship Service: 10:30 a.m.

Fellowship Time: Following Worship

Children attend the first part of the worship service. Following the Children's Message, Sunday School is available for nursery through high school. High school – age children attend worship service on the first Sunday of the month, and a teen discussion other weeks.

First Presbyterian Church of San Jose, 49 N. Fourth St.

3rd St.

4th St.

