

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



OCT. 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

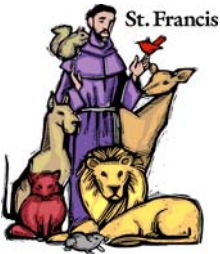


OCTOBER

Oct. 5, 10 a.m. Our **Presbyterian Women's Circle** begins



Oct. 6 - **International Dinner**, 6 p.m., sign up now so we know how many people are coming. Please try and bring some food to share (sign-up sheet in Narthex)



Oct. 14 - **Pet Blessing**, 1 p.m. Bring your pet and encourage others to do so as well (friends, family, neighbors)

Oct. 14 - **Town Park Towers 40th Anniversary Celebration**, 1-4 p.m. RSVP at TPT by Oct. 5th



Oct. 24, 6:30 p.m. **Soup Supper**, join us for fun and fellowship, bring soup, bread or dessert. More info on page 3.



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

November



Wed., Nov. 7, 14: 6:30 p.m. **Soup Supper**, join us for dinner and fun (More info. on page 3.)

Sun., Nov. 11: **Congregational Meeting after Worship**

Sell trees for our Dec. 1 Tree Pickup



Sun. Nov. 18: **Operation Christmas Child shoebox making** (see page 3)

Sat., Nov. 24: **Decorate our tree at 'Christmas in the Park**



LOTS going on at FPC!!



December

Sat., Dec. 1: **Trees for sale in our parking lot, decorate our church tree**

Sun., Dec. 2: **Advent begins**

Sun., Dec. 9: **Los Gatos Brass performs during worship**

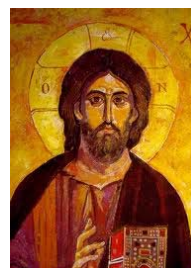
Sun., Dec. 16:

Special Worship Guests, Michael Readon, Patrick Lane, **The Advent Narratives**
11:45 a.m. **Christmas Brunch** following worship
7 p.m. **Christmas Caroling at the Montgomery Inn Shelter**

Fri., Dec. 21: **Stepan Rudenko Concert**

Sun., Dec. 23: **Peacemaking Offering**

Mon., Dec. 24: **Christmas Eve Service**



"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



Sharon speaking to the Presbytery on Sat., Sept. 22 about the Front Door Ministry

Sharings from Sharon

Dear Friends:

It is that time of year when Session is working on preparing a budget for the coming year. As in most small churches it can be an anxious time. We find ourselves dealing with facts and figures, with the bottom line, with profit and loss reports. For most of us the overwhelming desire to manage the church finances as good stewards leave those on Session struggling with ques-

tions of faith and the bottom line. Most of us in this congregation are not independently wealthy so we can respond from our hearts that “we feel your pain.” Uncertainty seems the order of the day when it comes to church finances. But, are we called to a greater awareness?

I served a small Methodist church for several months during a time of transition in my ministry. One of the things I valued most was that I did not need to Moderate Session. The congregation elected a President of the Board and they moderated the board—the Board members served much like our Session does, but my role was to remain “Pastor” during our meetings and perhaps ask questions that helped the Board remember that they were in a unique position. They were not a business-----but rather they were in the business of serving God. To be reminded of that from time to time took us to the holy place of trusting God when all the profit and loss reports shouted that they were on a sinking ship and it was time to bail.

Recently in my time of daily devotions I have been dealing with the issue of money. No one I know has ever gone into the ministry to become wealthy. In fact, financial anxiety, both personal and congregational often accompanies working in the church. We all know that fact when we leave Seminary with outstanding student loans, and serving churches that struggle each month with paying the heating bills. Yet, we make the decision to answer God’s call with a heart of faith that believes that God will provide. I can categorically proclaim that God does exactly that, over and over again.

What I have also learned during the last 28 years of serving God’s church is that it is never about money. In the depths of our being, where God creates us and calls us by name, financial resources simply don’t matter. We’re to lead just, generous and responsible lives no matter what our bank accounts or church ledgers say.

My pray for each of us during this time of year and any time that that we become anxious about money is that we release our anxiety about money to God. That in our prayers we articulate our worries and tell God all about it with our hands tightly clenched. And then we open our hands and let...it...go---resting and trusting in God’s goodness and God’s call to faithfulness.

Perhaps this prayer will be of help as you try to articulate what is in your heart.

Holy God,

Receive my anxiety about personal finances...

Receive my concern and worry about church finances...

Replace my anxious heart with a heart filled with peace and filled with hope. And when I reach out to grab hold of these worries, gently brush my hand aside and remind me (us) that all I (we) need to do is to be faithful to you. In the name of Jesus. Amen.

Proverbs 22:1 A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold.

In the last 28 years I have served 9 very small churches. They are all still faithfully serving God!!

Joyously in Christ’s Service

Pastor Sharon



October Birthdays!

Mike Tierney	Oct. 1
Linda Erickson	Oct. 5
Joselyn Johnson	Oct. 8
Angela Kamau	Oct. 10
Charlotte Powers	Oct. 12
Marjorie Pearson	Oct. 15
Clara Simmons	Oct. 18
Joseph Kamau	Oct. 20
Avery Powers	Oct. 28

Mission

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



In September, we gave 40 lbs. of useful canned and packaged food to **Sacred Heart Community Services**. So far this year, we have donated 509 lbs. of food, and 3,950 lbs. of food since we began our monthly food drive in June, 2009.



Front Door Ministry

In September we made and gave out **1,324** lunches for some **337** people. So far this year, we have served **8,836** bag lunches!

What a gift!!!

Not only did we receive about \$2,000 in cash contributions to the Front Door Ministry in September, **BUT** on Oct. 1 we received **150 lunches** made up for us by the good members at **West Valley Presbyterian Church**, made on Sept. 30 during their **5th Sunday Service Worship Day**.



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

At the **International Dinner**, Oct. 6, we'll find out how much \$\$ we brought in for Change for Change, and vote on which animals we will invest in, so be thinking! **Visit Heifer's website** so you can learn more about the good work they do! (www.heifer.org)



Fall Soup Suppers

Wed., Oct 24. November 7 and 14
6:30 p.m.

Come and share fellowship, food and fun!

Oct. 24: Soup and Bunko! A fun, super-easy dice game that involves moving around the room to different groups of people.

Nov. 7: Soup and Singing! After dinner we'll enjoy singing favorite hymns and Christmas carols.

Nov. 14: Baked Potatoes and Christmas Ornament Making! We'll make a simple ornament to go to the people who buy our Christmas trees on Dec. 1.

Sign up in the Narthex to bring soup, bread and dessert, and potatoes, toppings on Nov. 14th.



Operation Christmas Child Shoe boxes

Sunday, Nov. 18th after worship

Bring component parts (small toys, personal care items like brush, comb, socks, etc.), to share with other box-makers and a box or two already made if you can. Label each box for young girl, older girl, young boy, older boy.

Consider writing a warm note to the child and include a photo of you or your family. Pat Plant went to the kick-off event for Operation Children Child and heard from a Lebanese woman who received a box as a child when she grew up in an orphanage, and said how special the note and photo were for her.

Jo Fukazawa will prepare her famous Macaroni and Cheese for snack this day so our tummies will be full and our spirits high!



FPC Book Club

The Book Club has chosen the book “**This Flowing Toward Me, A story of God Arriving in Strangers**” by Sister Marilyn Lacey as it’ Fall read. The book is not available through the SJ Public library. New and used copies of the book are available through Amazon.com, as well as

an e-book version for the Kindle. Two copies are also available to borrow from the FPC library, so that you can join the read even if you don’t want to purchase the book. We ask only that you return the church copy to the shelf when finished so that someone else may borrow it.

In this book, Sister Marilyn has both written of her own spiritual journey and brought to vivid life the tortured paths of many of the world’s refugees. What began in 1979 as a response to a random bulletin board posting would ultimately change Sister Marilyn Lacey’s life—and the lives of countless refugees. In vivid prose, Sister Lacey narrates her twenty-five year spiritual journey of work with those displaced by conflict and disaster.

The book has a local connection and should be very interesting to us. Our own Presbytery of San Jose Refugee Ministry Advocates Elsa Amboy and Melissa Kreisa work with congregations and partner together with Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Division and other community organizations to support refugees who are starting a new life here in the Bay Area. Marilyn Lacey is the former director of refugee services at Catholic Charities in San Jose, CA. She is also the founder of non-profit **Mercy Without Borders**, whose mission is to partner with displaced women and children overseas in ways that help them move out of extreme poverty.



Our meeting will be at First Presbyterian Church, 49 N. 4th Street, San Jose CA, sometime shortly after the start of the new year. This should give you plenty of time to enjoy the book as well as your other fall and holiday activities!

For more info contact **Lori Tierney** or the church office at 408-297-7212 or email her at: lorimcc@aol.com

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



Passing the Peace, Sept. 23



Elsa Johnson (daughter of Eric and Jocelyn) on Sunday, Sept. 23...proof that children grow up TOO fast! (on Nov. 19, Elsa will turn 3!)



International Dinner Saturday, Oct. 6 6 pm

Don't miss this wonderful event! Bring a main dish, side dish, or dessert for this event and feel free to choose something from your culture or someone else's!

Costumes are welcome as well!!

We will choose which animals to buy with our Change for Change money and hear from a representative from Heifer International.



Christmas in the Park Tree

Just a heads-up: FPC has a tree again this year in the Community event "Christmas in the Park" at Plaza de Cesar Chavez Park in downtown San Jose.

Our tree will represent our wonderful congregation at this downtown event. We will decorate the tree the Saturday morning following Thanksgiving, and will have one or two crafting opportunities to help make the ornaments (we need to make at least 60 ornaments!).

Stay tuned for more information on the ornament theme and opportunities to help. This activity is simple and fun for all who are young at heart.

And mark your calendar now -- all are invited to help decorate the tree on **Saturday November 24 in Plaza Park**. If you haven't done this before, it is great fun! And don't forget to go visit the tree, and see all of the community trees, during the holiday season! More info to come!



Attention Pet Lovers!

Pet Blessing

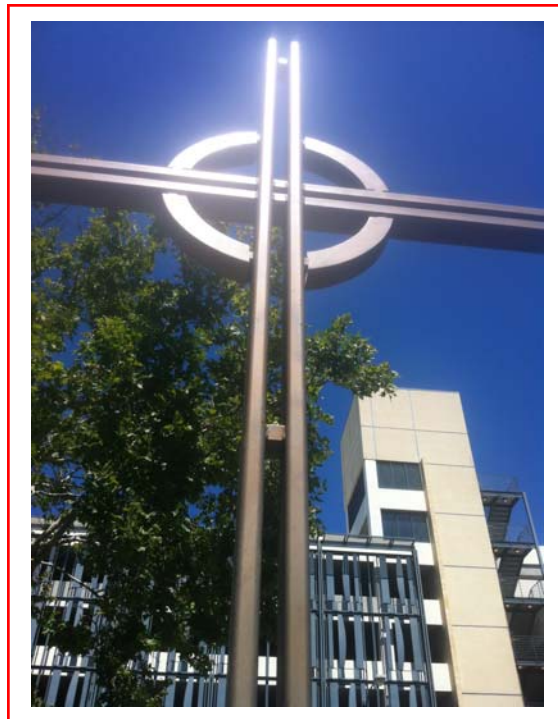
Sun. Oct. 14, 1 p.m.



Most of us know the joy of sharing our homes and our lives with furry (or not so furry) little creatures. We will do almost anything to meet their needs because they add something special to our lives. But how often do we thank God for these little creatures that make us laugh and touch our hearts in countless ways? Come

to the back yard of our church, Sunday afternoon, Oct. 14th and bring your pets, invite your neighbors who are crazy about their pooch, and share this special time. You will be blessed and your special friend will enjoy the special attention as we thank God for each one of them. Any pet is invited, as long as they are leashed or contained.

If you have a bird or some other pet we need to make special arrangements for please call us at: 408-297-7212.



**First Presbyterian Church
of San Jose**
Brilliant past! • Bright Future



**Greg Plant and John Balz,
one of the great volunteers
to our Front Door Ministry
from Foothill Presbyterian
Church**



In Our Garden

Now that harvest-time is here, things are still beautiful in our patio and gardens. Take advantage of our lovely patio for a meditative break in your day.

Rich Stewart has been a “garden-guru” for us.

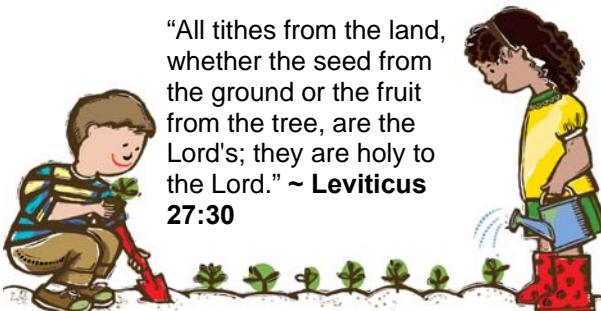
Rich has planted lettuce in our little garden oval. A good salad is in our future!



Roses are in bloom on our fenceline and some of our new fruit trees planted along the Fourth St. fence have fruit already!!



“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 Circle Starts 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.



Pastor Sharon, guest speaker on Sept. 30 Linda Mactaby, and Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church member Linda Hagan



Christmas Trees from FPC

An exciting opportunity to raise awareness of our location and ministries AND raise funds to support them.

We are partnering with Patchen California, supplier of the Bay Area's finest Christmas trees since 1969, by pre-selling 5' to 6' farm-raised Douglas trees to local residents and businesses. **The trees will be delivered to us on November 30 for pick-up on Dec. 1st.** They will have a special biodegradable "Fresh-Patch tm" disk attached to the trunk so that re-cutting at home won't be needed - also no sap on hands and clothing and no premature drying out. Our cost will be about \$22 - trees will sell for \$45. We will "bless" each tree with a hand-made FPC ornament and share a church brochure with each customer.

FPC folks will be encouraged to invite friends, neighbors and family members to order their trees from us.

Tree order forms and information in print and pdf format will be available soon. For more information, contact Judy Lococo.



MAKE US ONE LORD

"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."

"A woman asked a coworker, 'What is it like to be a Christian?' The coworker replied, 'It's like bringing you in, and washes all the dirt off of you. Then He cuts off the top and scoops out all the yucky stuff. He removes the seeds of doubt, hate, and greed. Then, He carves you a new smiling face and puts His light inside of you to shine for all the world to see.'"



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

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.



Newsletter Submissions



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

Deadline for the **November, 2012** edition is **Wednesday, Oct. 24, 2012**.