



*“Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel.”*

*~ Isaiah 7:14)*

## December

**Sun., Dec. 2** - **ADVENT** begins; **Los Gatos Brass** adds to our worship!

**Sun., Dec. 9** - Soup Supper and Sing Along, 6 p.m.

**Sun., Dec. 16**

- **Special Worship Guests:** Michael Reardon and Patrick Lane, **The Advent Narratives**
- **12 noon** - **Christmas Brunch following worship** (more on page 4)
- **7:00 p.m.** - **Christmas Caroling at Montgomery St. Inn Shelter** (more details on page 3)

**Fri., Dec. 21** - **Sotto Amore Duo Concert** featuring our pianist **Stepan Rudenko** and violinist, **Sheena Gutierrez**, “Reflections on Love” 7:30 p.m.

**Sun. Dec. 23** - **Peacemaking Offering** (more on page 3)

**Mon., Dec. 24** - **Christmas Eve Service**, 7 p.m., **St. Paul’s United Methodist Church**, 405 South 10th Street at San Salvador, plenty of parking; come worship together with our downtown church friends.

**Sun., Dec. 30** - **5th Sunday:** Make the parts of a community meal to be served at noon for our homeless friends.



## Pray for Sharon's Return to Health!

Our beloved pastor Sharon has recently endured some surgery and is recovering at home. Please pray for her speedy return to health and to us!

### Why not send her a card?

Sharon Hare  
1201 Parkmoor Ave.,  
#3122  
San Jose 95126

Watch for her next note to us in our January newsletter.

**Pastor Sharon** speaking eloquently at the Presbytery meeting Nov. 17 about the need for prayer regarding current differences of opinion on gay ordination driving wedges between some churches and PC (USA). About half the attendees agreed to meet for prayer on this issue. Yea Sharon!



## New Members Join FPC on Nov. 1



What a blessing it was on November 18<sup>th</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> to welcome new members **Shanaz Abbasi**, **Gerry McKenna**, **Joseph Han**, **Irene** and **John Capuchino** into membership in our church.



A highlight of the ceremony was the baptism of **John Capuchino**.

After worship the Deacons provided a cake in honor of our new members.



## December Birthdays!

Alvin Davis	Dec. 6
Jennifer Kamau	Dec.12
George Doelitzsch	Dec.17
Joy Stanton	Dec. 17
Cindy Bueno	Dec. 22
Patrick Tierney	Dec. 22
Rayne Ripperger	Dec. 24
Teresa Johnson	Dec. 25
Lori Abramson	Dec. 30

**We're Collecting White Socks and Knit Caps for the Montgomery Inn Shelter Event Dec. 16**



**Knit Hats:** Not blue or red!

**White men's socks:** (not anklets or tube socks).



**Bring to church before or on Sunday, Dec. 9**

We also need people to bring snacks (sweet and savory) for this event.

**Front Door Ministry**



In November we made and gave out **1,036** lunches for some **469** people. So far this year, we have made and given out **11,522** bag lunches to struggling souls!



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

So far in December, we have given 50 lbs. of useful canned and packaged food to **Sacred Heart Community Services**. So far this year, we have donated 634 lbs. of food, and 4,075 lbs. of food since we began our monthly food drive in June, 2009.

**Eat this Bread**

**Communion Hymn by Jacques Bethier**

Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
Come to Him and never be hungry.  
Eat this bread, drink this cup,  
Trust in Him and you will not thirst.



**Peacemaking Offering - December 23**

This year's Peacemaking Offering goes both to our denomination's Peacemaking Program to fund their tireless efforts for peace in the world, and locally to **the Bill Wilson Center's** program to aid "termed out" Foster youth who turn 18 and no longer receive aid and foster parenting from the state. BWC helps them through the next few years and gives them educational, job placement and living assistance. Without such help, many termed out Foster youth end up homeless or incarcerated.

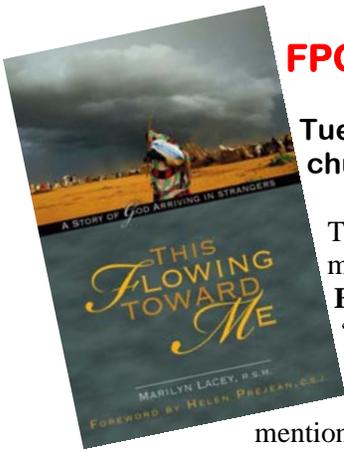


**22 Boxes went overseas to help children in need**

Thanks to your help, on Sunday, Nov. 18 our youth under the help and coordination of **Theresa Johnson (Thanks Teresa!)**, was able to assemble 14 boxes, and 8 more boxes were made ahead by members. **Ole Johnson (Thank you Ole!)** delivered the boxes on Nov. 19 to the Foxworthy Baptist Church that coordinated the regional effort. As soon as we hear where our boxes went, we'll let everyone know.



*"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*



## FPC Book Club

**Tuesday, January 8 at 7pm at church**

The FPCSJ Book Club is in the midst of reading the book **“This Flowing Toward Me,”** a story of “God Arriving in Strangers” by Sister Marilyn Lacey. Several congregation members have mentioned that they are enjoying the book – a slim tome of stories, thoughts, and memories from a woman who has had incredible experiences working with refugees. What is your favorite chapter? Mine might be “Stranger God” – a good look at the biblical concept of the stranger.

You can borrow a copy from the FPC library. New and used copies of the book are also available through Amazon.com, as well as an e-book version for the Kindle. The book is not available through the SJ Public library.

Our discussion of the book will be in early January – **Tuesday, January 8 at 7pm** at the church. The discussion should be a good one – several people reading the book also know or have worked with refugee programs or know the author Marilyn Lacey personally. She is the former director of refugee services at Catholic Charities in San Jose, CA. 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.

Reminder - our meeting will be at First Presbyterian Church, 49 N. 4th Street, San Jose CA, shortly after the start of the new year on Jan 8 at 7 pm. 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 [fpcsj@yahoo.com](mailto:fpcsj@yahoo.com)



## More on December Events



**Sunday, December 9, 6:30 p.m.- SOUP SUPPER AND SING-A-LONG** - sign up to bring soup, bread or dessert in the Narthex. Come to enjoy fellowship and also to sing carols together.

### Sunday, December 16:

- **Special Guest Storytellers** “The Advent Narratives” during worship
- **BRUNCH** after worship: sign up to bring some of the food we will share
- **Christmas Caroling at the Montgomery Street Inn, 7:00 p.m.** : sign up to bring snacks for this event. Mission is collecting hats (no red and blue) and white socks for the residents of Montgomery Inn.



**Our Advent Wreath**  
**Hope • Peace • Joy • Love •**  
**Christ is born**





## Our 'Christmas in the Park' Tree

#252 on main path



**Greg Plant, Patrick Tierney, Pat Plant, John Tierney and Michele Hare**



**Patrick and John engineering the tree topper with church name on it**



**Trim  
the  
Tree**

The downtown community event Christmas in the Park had its official kick-off on Friday evening and lasts through the Christmas season and into New Year – and FPC is there!

Congregation members and friends made ornaments as part of the Soup Supper activity on Nov 14. And early on Friday Nov 23 the Plants, Michele Hare, and Patrick and John Tierney decorated the First Presbyterian Church San Jose community tree. The decorators were joined by Pastor Sharon, Mike and Lori Tierney, Helen McCaig (Lori's mom), and Jim Lathrop to cheer them on!

Don't forget to go visit the tree, and see all of the community trees, during the holiday season! It is a great chance to stroll the park and really appreciate the diversity of San Jose. Our tree is #252, in the center aisle just a bit south of the center plaza.



# The Bright Future Team



## Mission Statement for Bright Futures Team:

With the guidance of God, the **Bright Futures Team** is focused on discerning, imagining, and leading the congregation of **First Presbyterian Church of San Jose** to grow, thrive, and extend the hands of Christ in the Downtown San Jose community.

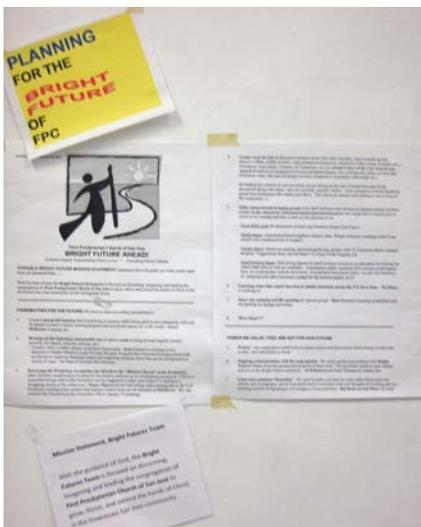
One of the ideas the **Bright Future Team** has been discussing and researching, is a non-profit bakery which would train high functioning homeless folks and re-entry incarcerated people to bake and sell bakery goods. The bakery would not only benefit those trained, the people enjoying our treats, but the church once sales start to come in.

**Gerry McKenna**, who has catering and business experience, has spent countless hours learning about small business management, business plans and local regulations.

He found a similar bakery operation, **All Things Sweet** ([www.allthingsweetorlando.org/](http://www.allthingsweetorlando.org/); slogan: *Changing lives...one sweet cupcake at a time.*), in Orlando, FL and went to research them in person. He spent a week actually helping produce cupcakes, delivering them and learning about the behind-the-scenes business dealings.



Pastor Sharon telling the congregation about **Gerry McKenna's** trip to Orlando, FL and some of the **Bright Future Team** laying on hands and praying for his success



In the middle of the church Social Hall we have posted our working list of ideas and we urge all members and friends to be thinking of other ideas for our future.



**Don Choi**, our new Pastoral Intern from San Francisco Theological Seminary, started last weekend. Don is the Vice Moderator for our Presbytery this year and is a member at Daesung Church in Sunnyvale.

Don will work part-time at the church and preach, teach and work on Mission projects.



Despite a dreadful downpour and a few new leaks in our ceiling, the first Sunday of Advent was wonderful. Though we really missed **Pastor Sharon, Pastor Marjorie** stepped in like a trooper and also led the choir. The **Los Gatos Brass** serenaded us and added to our worship experience.

**Teresa Johnson** and **Irene** and **John Capuchino** lit the first Advent candle of the season.

We also got to celebrate **Alvin Davis'** 80th birthday with delicious treats provided by Madeline Davis. We got to meet almost all of Alvin's five kids and their children and even some great-grandchildren!

The day before we brought out all our Christmas decorations and gussied up the church for this very important season.



**Drip, drip, drip...**



**Los Gatos Brass... fabulous!**



**Irene Capuchino lights the first Advent candle**



**Pastor Marjorie preaching and leading the choir**



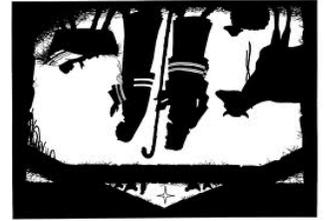
**Alvin Davis enjoyed his family and friends at his birthday celebration after worship**



In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

valleys and make the rough smooth.  
that is in need. Equip us, your people, to fill in the  
community and global home. Guard every child  
Open our eyes to the vulnerable around us in our  
woman. That teaches us something about you.  
He was born in a barn to a vulnerable young  
Your son was not born in a castle to strong rulers.  
God of Advent:

Prayer from **First Sunday of Advent** bulletin:



**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](mailto:fpcsj@yahoo.com)
- Website: [www.fpcsj.org](http://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 [gregplant@comcast.net](mailto:gregplant@comcast.net)).

Deadline for the **January, 2013** edition is **Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2012.**

