

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN



EXPERIENCING CHRIST'S LOVE, EXTENDING CHRIST'S HANDS SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA 2013

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

Mission Worker from Central Asia to visit us Tues. night, Jan. 29

Soup Supper and Discussion

A PC (USA) Mission Co-Worker from Central Asia will visit us on **Tuesday, Jan 29 at 6:30 p.m.** To spend a soup supper and discussion evening with us.

PLEASE JOIN US!

Sign up in the Narthex to bring soup, bread or dessert.



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

“Be doers of the word, not hearers only...”

~ James 1:22

5th Service Worship Day Sunday December 30, 2012

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

240 people in need were helped by our 5th Sunday efforts!

At our Dec. 30th “5th Sunday Service Worship Day,” we produced a lot of wonderful things to help people in great need:



For the **Linus Project** (<http://sjlinus.org/>) we made **18 blankets** for the comfort of children and teens experiencing illness or trauma at local hospitals, or with the police departments in our county.



For our own **Front Door Ministry** we bagged **150 lunches** to give out to hungry people who come to our door looking for



With the vegetables we collected last Thanksgiving for the cornucopia, plus some donated turkey, we made enough delicious **hot turkey vegetable soup** to feed **72 people** who came to our door on Dec. 30 and 31st.

Sharings from Sharon



Pastor Sharon on Sunday, reading to us from the wonderful book "God's Dream" written by the Rev. Desmond Tutu

Dear Friends:

As I write this, it is a couple of days after Christmas and the calendar is forcing my thoughts to focus on the New Year and what the future holds for us at First Presbyterian Church of San Jose. The truth is, I am not sure of what the New Year will bring to our church, what exactly God has in store for us, what God wants us to accomplish in Jesus' name. 2013 will be a year of change for us, but how that will end up looking like is indeed an adventure. The Leadership of the Church is counting on each of us continuing to light our candles

and hold this Church and all God wants to do through us and in us before God in prayer.

What I am sure of, is that there is no promise in Scripture that things will always go our way or smoothly because we follow Jesus. Jesus tells us that when we deal with the world to be wise as serpents and gentle as doves. Jesus also told us that no matter what---Jesus would be with us until the end of the age. Even Paul proclaims that nothing---nothing in all creation---will be able to separate us from the love of God. Those are pretty powerful words---but more than words they are truths that we can count on. They are truths that can carry us into a New Year filled with expectation, hope, and determination. We have been blessed to be part of a community of Saints who love God, love each other, and who know in the deepest part of our being that to love God we must love our neighbor. It is with great Joy that I welcome 2013 as we travel with road, filled with God adventures, together.

Joyfully, in Christ's Service,

Pastor Sharon



"Let us realize the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."
~ Martin Luther King Jr.

We celebrate his life on his birthday, January 21

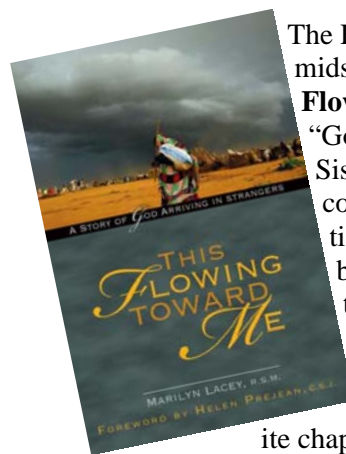


January Birthdays!

Frances Layman	Jan. 5
Carson Hibbard	Jan. 11
Bruce Powers	Jan. 23
John Gray	Jan. 27

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. **For more info contact Lori Tierney** or the church office at 408-297-7212 or fpcsj@yahoo.com

White Socks and Knit Caps for the Montgomery Inn Shelter Event Dec. 16 Enthusiastically Received

On Dec. 16, we traveled to the **Montgomery Inn Shelter** and sang Christmas Carols with the men accompanied by Octobop guitarist **Jack Conway** and our own **Marjorie Pearson**. Besides putting out a gala spread of holiday treats, we donated a big collection of hats and socks which were welcomed by the men staying at the shelter.



Front Door Ministry



In December we made and gave out **997** lunches for some **369** people. So far this year, we have made and given out **12,519** bag lunches to struggling souls!



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

So far in January, we have given 45lbs. of useful canned and packaged food to **Sacred Heart Community Services**. So far this year, we have donated 45 lbs. of food, and 4,120 lbs. of food since we began our monthly food drive in June, 2009.



Peacemaking Offering



This year's Peacemaking Offering collected **\$487** which went to both 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. BWC helps these youth through the next few years and gives them educational, job placement and living assistance and gently aids them into adulthood. Without such help, many termed out Foster youth end up homeless or incarcerated.



22 Boxes went overseas to help children in Peru

Our **22 Operation Christmas Child** boxes joined with some 219,703 Christmas boxes from our region and flew to poor children in **Peru**. For more details on the need in Peru and how **Operation Christmas Child** and the charity **Samaritan's Purse**, go to: www.samaritanaspurse.org/index.php/OCC/Peru/?src=eZgiveupdate.

Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 20 after worship

We have a congregational meeting on Sunday, January 20 after worship with the goal being approving a budget for 2013 operation. Please plan to stay and participate in this meeting!



We have a new sign in front of our church over the front door! Now it's less of a mystery what our building is!!



ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
Church of San Jose
49 North 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:

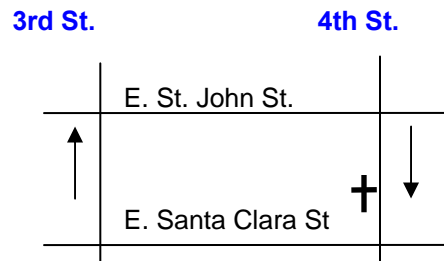
Join us this Sunday!

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 gregplant@comcast.net).

Deadline for the **February, 2013** edition is **Monday, Jan. 28, 2013**.

