

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN

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



On May 19 we will celebrate Pentecost, the "birthday" of the Christian Church. We celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. It's a day of passion and excitement!

Wear Red for Pentecost

Be sure to:

1. Be in worship May 19
2. **Wear RED**
3. Consider inviting a friend to worship

Pentecost Offering: On Pentecost we participate in the denomination's **Pentecost offering** which funds PC(USA) ministries for youth, young adults, and children at risk. Offering envelopes will be in the bulletin on May 19.

FPC gets to keep 25% of this offering and your Mission Team has voted to give it to our Mission Partner Washington Elementary School's **Adalante Boys**. This is a program started by Principal **Maria Evans** to teach peacemaking, leadership, and anger-management skills to students - sons of neighborhood gang members. The goal of this program is to give these boys skills that will break the cycle of gang violence in their families and in their future. These boys will learn skills that hopefully make gang membership less desirable.

Back by popular demand! Game Nights at FPC

**May 24 (and every 4th Friday through September)
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

Game nights are a good time to invite friends and neighbors. Win or lose, there will be free popcorn and drinks, lots of fun and the opportunity to kick back with new and old friends! **Bring your favorite games!**



Piano and Violin Concert

**Sat., May 25 from
7:00-9:00 p.m.**

Featuring our own
**Stepan Rudenko and
Sheena Gutierrez**



Banjo Band to Play at FPC May 18 7:30 p.m.

Mark your calendar and get your toe-tapping shoes ready for the Peninsula Banjo Band's performance in our sanctuary May 18 at 7:30 p.m.



This is an opportunity to bring in new folks and raise money for our ministry so start inviting folks you know to join us. \$10 is a suggested donation.

May focus on



Immanuel House for Refugees

In May we will host some refugee guests from countries far away from us, who our country has invited to become citizens. Some 200 refugees come to our county each year (60,000 to counties across the U.S. each year.) They come here, sometimes with just the clothes on their backs, fleeing from political, religious, or other forms of persecution, and/or the ravages of war. Usually, they can never go home, and they hope for a better life in America which many see as the "land of opportunity." Our Presbytery has had a strong partnership with Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement program for the past 25 years.

Recently our Presbyterian churches raised nearly a million dollars to buy a rooming house in San Jose (**68 S. 11th St. - 7 short blocks to our church!**) for refugee transitional housing. The new house will be called "**Immanuel House**" (God is with us), and will become one of our partner agencies we serve and support.

As our relationship grows with **Immanuel House** we will find ways we can help the house and its residents flourish. *Please make an effort to meet these new friends.*

On Sunday May 26 we will take a special offering for operating costs at the new Immanuel House.

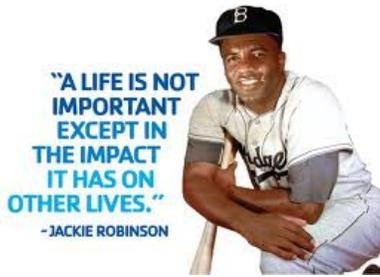
Come to a party at the current refugee house in

Sunnyvale (1067 Inverness St., off Wolf Rd.), **Sunday, May 19 from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.** Please bring something to add to the meal and a folding chair or two. Come to talk with the refugees... they've been practicing!!

RSVP to Pat Plant: pat@sanjosepby.org, (408)702-0785.

Sharings from Sharon

Dear Friends:



Last night Michele and I decided to go to the movies. We went to see "42", the Jackie Robinson story, the first black man to break the color barrier in baseball. I thought it was a wonderful movie based on a true life story. I was especially impressed that the faith backgrounds of both key characters were very much a part of the story. I came away inspired and filled with hope in the ability of people to see

injustice and to have the courage to do something to change it---no matter the cost.

I believe that such behavior is at the heart of the Gospel Message. Everywhere Jesus went he confronted injustice, and spotlighted those who choose to use injustice to feather their nest. He championed the poor and the oppressed and called those in political and religious authority to repent. Isn't it interesting that the religious are often calling the poor to repentance and lifting up the prosperous as icons of success?

Jesus has told us to go and do likewise. On **May 19th** we celebrate the **Day of Pentecost**; the day that God poured out the Holy Spirit on God's people. The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity that dwells within believers that they may be empowered to know and do the will of our Creator and Lord. The reality is that to do the will of God only becomes possible when we are willing to release control of our lives to God. When we finally are willing to say to God, not my will but yours, be done. Make me into the person YOU want me to be. For me, it is a daily prayer, a daily relinquishment of what I want, to the greater desire of my heart, to please God and be used by God.

This summer, during the month of August, I am going to be offering a course in "Silence". It will be a thirty day course that offers the opportunity to allow a little silence into each day as we learn to recognize the voice of God. It will start with a five minute commitment to silence and build on that. You will receive a booklet and daily supports as well as weekly gatherings to check in and share with one another. I hope you will consider this unique way to allow the Spirit of God to impact your life in a very loving and gentle way. I will share more details in the weeks to come.

As we celebrate Pentecost (wearing red and coming to worship filled with expectation) may this month be a time of growing our faith even as we are preparing our gardens for growth.

Joyfully, in Christ's Service

Pastor Sharon

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. ~ Isaiah 41:10



May Birthdays!

Raja Jacob	May 1
Travis Hyatt	May 4
Jim Steadman	May 5
Sharon Hare	May 13
Andy Davis	May 16
Hong Ja Ripperger	May 18
Evan Bueno	May 24
Grace Clark	May 26
Denise Gray	May 26

Anna Lucia and Dad



Born April 2, here is our first look at baby **Anna Luchia Capuchino**. Mom and baby are doing well and Dad is learning quickly how to parent.



FPC Mission



Front Door Ministry

In April we made and gave out **1,600** lunches for some **445** people (some of whom came to the door many times).

So far this year we have given out **5,579** lunches. [We gave out **12,510** lunches in 2012.]

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



So far this May we have given **40 lbs.** of useful canned and packaged food to **Sacred Heart Community Services**. So far this year, we have donated **285 lbs.** of food, and **4,360 lbs. of food** since we began our monthly food drive in June, 2009.

Change for



Change

This year's **Change for Change** non-profit group to raise funds for is **Mercy Beyond Borders**.

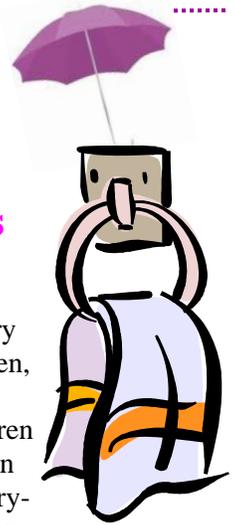
Start collecting change now. We will collect our combined savings on Sunday, September 8. Our savings will help save the lives of poor women and girls in South Sudan and Haiti.



- **OUR MISSION:** *Partnering with displaced women and children in ways that alleviate their extreme poverty*
- **OUR FOCUS:** **Women learn, women matter; all of our projects with women and girls** - whether promoting health, supporting economic development, or providing formal schooling and scholarships - include an educational component.
- **THE PROBLEM:** **Extreme poverty** (defined by the UN as living on less than \$1.25/day) is poverty that kills--for lack of adequate nutrition, shelter, clean water, & medicines. Among all who suffer from extreme poverty, the most vulnerable are women & children displaced by war.
- **THE SOLUTION:** **Extreme poverty can be alleviated**, but only with **external intervention**. In order to get onto the first rung of the ladder of economic development, those trapped in extreme poverty require aid and solidarity. According to economist Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University and architect of the UN Millennium Goals, once they have that first leg up, they can and do advance on their own.
- **THE MERCY BEYOND BORDERS APPROACH:** Mercy Beyond Borders uses three methods proven to be effective in alleviating extreme poverty: (1) Educating women and girls, (2) Providing funding for small entrepreneurial projects designed and implemented by the displaced women themselves, and (3) Promoting maternal and child health.

April Showers!!

Thanks for the **45 towels** you donated in April for InnVision's Montgomery Inn Shelter for men, and the Villa for women and children which had a fire in April ruining everything including the guests' clothing, towels, bedding, etc.



Crop Walkers and Supporters raise \$18,500 for

the hunger ministry of Church World Service and (locally) Second Harvest Food Bank and Sacred Heart Community Services.



Marylynn Anderson, Lori Tierney, John Tierney, Marjorie Pearson, Patrick Tierney, Ole Johnson, Michele Hare, Crop Leader, Don Choi, and Pat Plant



First Presbyterian Church San Jose **Book Club**

Our Next Book: *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver: Read by June 2!

The FPC book club was started in 2010. It was formed to allow members a chance to read a variety of books and discuss how our faith influences how we approach and understand the book or how the book might influence our faith. We have read both fiction and non-fiction, books that were on spiritual and religious topics and books that were not.

We haven't read fiction in a while – and so our choice for our next read is *Flight Behavior* by Barbara Kingsolver. Our discussion will be on **June 2, 2013**, at FPC following worship.

Flight Behavior is a novel set in present day Appalachia. Like many of Barbara Kingsolver's novels, it touches themes of the environment and people; a parable of catastrophe and denial that explores how the complexities we inevitably encounter in life lead us to believe in our particular chosen truths. It somehow deals with the very concrete issue of climate change while delving into unsettled ground of science, faith, and the balance between reason and conviction.

More **Crop Walk** Photos



Our Mission Team served cold water and ice cream to the 250 walkers at the end of the walk.



THANKS for all the donors for this worthwhile cause! You were more than "Good Apples, you were "Good Tomatoes!"



Above: FPC walkers



To right: Walkers from all over lazing on our front lawn eating ice cream



Mission Worker from El Salvador to visit FPC on Wed., June 5

Kristy Von Nostran, a Mission Co-Worker from El Salvador is visiting the Presbytery in late May and early June and is visiting FPC on **Wed. June 5 for a Salad Supper and discussion at 6:30**

pm. Kristi is the facilitator for the **Joining Hands Network** in El Salvador, an initiative of the **Presbyterian Hunger Program**. She nurtures the relationships between a network of churches and other groups in El Salvador with Presbyterians in the United States. Together, they strive to promote sustainable agriculture practices, reverse the growing dependence on imported grain and multinational seed companies, reduce hunger and strengthen rural economies. Faced with the challenge of a national food crisis in El Salvador, Kristi says Joining Hands works to help El Salvadorans experience the abundant life that God wants for all people everywhere.

Sign up in the Narthex to bring salad, bread or dessert and plan to come meet and learn from Kristy Von Nostran.

Per Capita

If you were in church last Sunday, you saw Gerry McKenna’s well presented story of our church finances.... A classic story of more going out than coming in.

One way you can help the church if you have not already done so, is pay for your “per capita” fee which is **\$29.47** for 2013. As Pastor Sharon suggested you could pay a few dollars each week and just state “per capita” on the memo part of your check or on the giving envelope.

Per capita is the fee charged each church for the members “on their rolls.” If we don’t pay this fee, the church pays it for us, and as you heard, the church could use more of our help.

Here is the way per capita is figured and split up:

- \$16.95: Presbytery
- \$5.22: Synod
- \$6.80: General Assembly office in Louisville
- \$.50 Voluntary Emergency Assistance

\$29.47

JOB OPENING AT CHURCH



We have been blessed over the past several years by **Lori Tierney’s** talented and caring attention to our **bulletin boards in the narthex and hall.** The

good and bad news is that Lori has accepted a new position up the peninsula that leaves very limited time for other than life’s essentials.

The Connections Team is looking for one or more volunteers to assume this ministry opportunity. For more information, please talk with **Judy Lococo.**



Sharon Johnson honored

Sharon Johnson received a volunteer award at the Tech Museum for 3,000 (**YES. THREE THOUSAND!!**) volunteer hours she has served since the Tech’s opening.

Yea Sharon! Thanks for contributing to our youth and greater community.



More \$\$ for the Church

We have a new sign posted in the entry to the parking lot advising people that they can pay for parking in the office, or risk being towed.

Be sure **YOU** have a sticker in your car window showing that you are a Member of FPC.





Our roses are in bloom!!



Our garden has never been prettier... look around!



The value of water

Last year we wrote about this miraculous bush in the back of our garden that all of the sudden brought forth this gorgeous flower after not having any flowers in recent memory. This year we opened a sprinkler head near this bush and all of the sudden that bush is COVERED with these attractive flower!

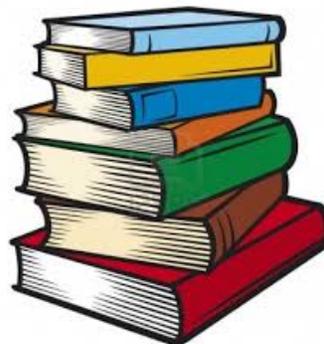


I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Acts 2:17



Michele Hare has been busy!



"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you. "

~ Psalm 32:8



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:

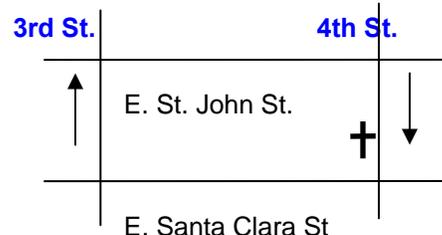
Join us this Sunday!

Worship Service: 10:30 a.m. (come by 10:20 a.m. and join in the praise singing preparing us for worship.)

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 **Pat Plant**. Any format works (in person, church mailbox, email patplant@comcast.net).



Deadline for the **June, 2013** edition is **Monday, May 27, 2013.**