



## Sharing's From Sharon

### Dear Friends:

I can hardly believe that it is September already. Next thing you know, I will be writing about Advent!

I love September because it gives us a chance to start all over again; kind of like January 1<sup>st</sup> in September. It is indeed a reminder once again of God's gift of grace and God's endless ability to forgive our foolish ways.

At First Presbyterian we are beginning a **few new things**. First of all, a **class for those who are interested in learning more about our Denomination and about our church** will begin after church on September 8<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon. At the conclusion of the 4 week class participants will be given the opportunity to become members of our church. If you are interested in this class, please let me know as soon as possible. The second thing that **we are beginning new is a class taught by Don Choi**. Don is an excellent teacher and I would encourage you to take advantage of his class. You will be blessed. Don's class will also begin on the 8<sup>th</sup> of September after church. You can read more about his class in this newsletter. The third new thing that we are beginning is a monthly "Healing Service" that will be the Fourth Sunday of each month during our regular worship hour.

I have been listening to God for some time to nudge my heart with the idea of a **service of healing**. I have been

reluctant, mostly out of fear. I believe with my whole heart that God heals. However, sometimes I come with expectations of how God should heal and I find myself disappointed and sometimes even angry when I misunderstand the way our God answers our prayers. Yet week after week we listen to each other ask for God's healing presence in our lives and in the lives of those we love. We respond with our "Thanks be to God" or "Lord, hear our prayer," which are both appropriate responses. Yet, I hear in those requests a deeper level of pain and yearning that begs to be addressed. I hope that by setting time aside each month for a service of healing we will be able to address those cries of longing with a reverent respect not only for the request but also for the person who makes the request. Don and I are working on the services and ask for your prayers as we seek God's leading in this life-changing opportunity.

In these last whispers of summer days and summer nights I hope you will **set time aside to be refreshed and renewed** and then **enter into the new Fall Season with a zest for living and a yearning to grow deeper in your relationship with God and one another**.

Joyfully, in Christ's Service, *Pastor Sharon*



**The Stephen Ministry program will be at FPCSJ soon.** Stephen Ministry is Christ caring for people through people. It is one-on-one ministry by a trained, caring friend. Arrangements are being made for us to work with the SM group at Stone PC. Training will be available as well as service as a minister in our congregation. Please contact **Carol Lathrop** for further information: (408) 293-2673 or [carlath@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carlath@sbcglobal.net).

# JOIN US for an AFTERNOON GARDEN PARTY and OPEN HOUSE



**THURSDAY,  
SEPT. 12<sup>th</sup>  
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.**

For more infor-

mation phone

Rich Stewart at (408)821-4260

- Coffee, tea, and cookies
- Meet and greet your neighbors
- Raise your voice in song

**Invited guests: Residents of:**

Town Park Towers , The Shires , John 23<sup>rd</sup> Multi-Service Center, and Members and friends of our church



**John Capuchino** was ordained as an Elder on Sunday, Sept. 1. Here elders laid hands on John for prayer.



## Adult Bible Study to Begin on September 8th - by Don Choi

For ten weeks, we will explore the theme of "Nurturing a Healthy Spirit" following the guidance of Jesus' own spiritual practices as witnessed by the gospel writers in the New Testament and under the light of the Hebrew concept of the mind-body as a unity. We all desire to enjoy healthy lives and be fully open and engaged with the world and those around us - bodily and spiritually. But there are forces that keep us from reaching and keeping that potential. Some of those forces come from the outside and many times are systemic, leading us to feel impotent and frustrated. We celebrate every Sunday Jesus' victory over those forces: his resurrection and vindication from the death on the cross. We must also become aware that there are forces within - prejudices, ignorance, habits - that steer us to a passive, unhealthy life. Jesus also commanded those out of our lives by healing, casting out demons and forgiving sins. And Jesus showed us through the example of his own life the secret to a full life in relationship with God and others. Jesus calls you and I now to come together, to hear and accept by faith the power that the Holy Spirit showers on each and every one of us to build and bring health - shalom - into our lives. Throughout this series, we will start with well known recipes for a healthy body and explore their counterparts in the spiritual realm. Here are some examples: Balanced diet, Cardio-vascular exercises, Stretching, and games that engage us.



**SEPTEMBER Birthdays!**

Eric Johnson	Sept. 5
Sharon Johnson	Sept. 10
Shahnaz Abbasi	Sept. 23

**Change for  
Change**



**Sunday, Sept 8**

**BRING IN YOUR CHANGE TO  
CONTRIBUTE TO**



**Help women and girls  
in South Sudan**

**Founder Sister Marilyn Lacey will preach  
for us on Oct. 6!**



# FPC Mission



## Front Door Ministry

In August we made and gave out **1,874** lunches for some **656** people (some of whom came to the door many times).

So far this year we have given out **12,616** lunches. [We gave out **12,510** lunches in 2012; **we have already passed that number in our 8th month of 2013!**]

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

In August we gave **100 lbs.** of useful canned and packaged food to **Sacred Heart Community Services**. So far this year, we have donated **445 lbs.** of food, and **4,700 lbs.** of food since we began our monthly food drive five years ago in June, 2009.



# 5th

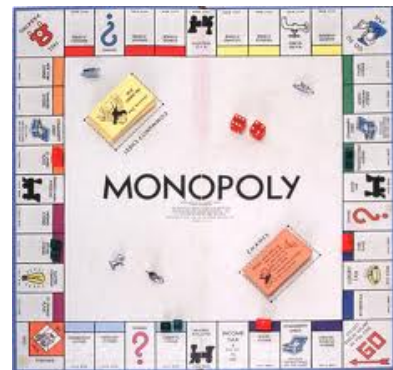
# Service Worship

# Sunday

# Sept. 29, 2013

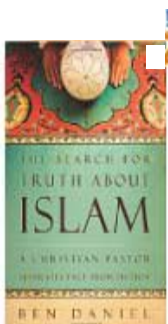
**"Be doers of the word and not hearers only..." - James 1:22**

**"I was hungry and you gave me something to eat..." - Mathew 25: 35**



## Game Night at FPC Fri., September 27 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 to play and share!**



## FPC BOOK CLUB Sunday, Oct. 20th, 1:00 p.m.

Our next book will be: "The Search for Truth about Islam, a Christian Pastor Separates Fact from Fiction" by **Rev. Ben Daniel of Foothill Presbyterian Church**. Ben tackles common stereotypes and misconceptions that tend to define Islam in the popular imagination. He also looks at Christianity's own history of violence and explores what he calls "the American cult of fear"

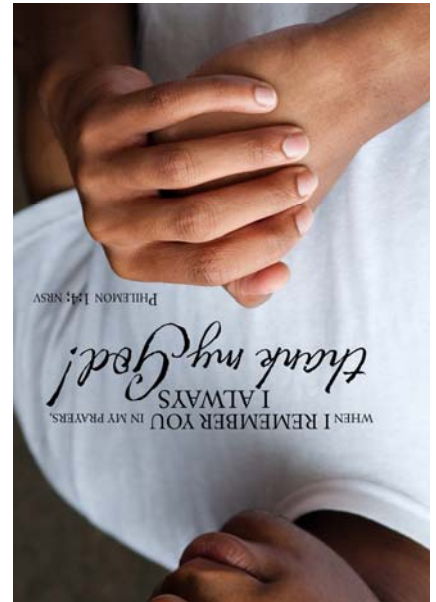
Daniel helps debunk the myths and puts a human face on Islam in America. **A most interesting read for all, with many opportunities for discussion and questions.** Ben has been invited to join us on Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. at the Church. Books are available in the church office for a suggested donation of \$20 per book.



**On Aug. 25th we said good-bye to our beloved pianist Stephan Rudenko, who is moving to Miami, FL.**

**We will miss you and your wonderful music!**





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



Deadline for the **October, 2013** edition is **Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2013**.

**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.**

