



Great jazz at FPC!! featuring OCTOBOP



Sunday February 9, 2014 at 2:00 PM

Stay after church on Feb. 9th or come back to enjoy the concert to meet the musicians and enjoy delicious refreshments. Octobop CDs will be for sale.

For more information about Octobop, please visit <http://www.octobop.com/>
or visit their YouTube channel: <http://www.youtube.com/user/TheOctobopjazz>



The Choir in action!

Under the direction of Choir Director **Marjorie Pearson**, and accompanied by Marjorie and **Jim Lathrop**, the choir sang impressively on Jan. 26.

Sharings from Sharon

(**Editorial note:** FPC Newsletter creators Pat and Greg Plant moved, started a new life in an unsettled situation (Refugee House under major reconstruction... us in the middle of that), had 2 computers die and a new one periodically fail, and both encountered bouts of unwellness, so we have failed to produce a newsletter in quite a few months. Beyond our apology for what was mostly beyond our control, here is Sharon's very good article for the January edition which we have finally rolled out now nearly in February!?)

Dear Friends: Happy New Year!!!! Are you in the midst of keeping the resolutions you made? I always make resolutions in the hope that even if I don't succeed in fully keeping them, I may make a small change and that is always good!!!! A little improvement is always better than no improvement!!!

This morning during devotions, I read a quote by Martin Luther, the 16th century church Reformer. He said: "When it comes to faith, what a living, creative, active, powerful thing it is. It cannot do other than good at all times. It never waits to ask where there is some good work to do, rather, before the question is raised, it has done the deed, and keeps on doing it."

It seems to me that Martin Luther has his hand on the heart of the Gospel. The aim of every Christian should be to live in faith. I think that to live in faith means to allow God to permeate every aspect of our day. We are called to live with a grateful heart for the blessing of life, redeemed by a God who wants only to live for all eternity in relationship with each one of us.

The good works we do are a direct result of living faithfully. It is an automatic reflex of being faithful genuine Christians, in love with God and therefore all of God's creation. Our church, at 49 N. 4th Street is all about living faithfully and doing good works ---- however, we need to remember that to be about faithful living we must seek God's presence in the everyday through prayer, bible study, and worship.

Perhaps, together, we can resolve to daily surrender our wills to our Lord, and proclaim Jesus as Lord of our lives in everything we say and do. May God Bless Us, Everyone!

Pastor Sharon

Due to dwindling church finances, we were forced to reduce our office administrator **Karleen's** job down to 10 hour a week. Here Deacon Moderator **Carol Lathrop** presents Karleen with a financial gift from members.



January & February Birthdays!

Frances Layman	Jan. 5
John Gray	Jan. 27
Peter Wendt	Feb. 3
John Capuchino	Feb. 6
Carol Lathrop	Feb. 23
Judy Lococo	Feb. 24

FPC Mission



Front Door Ministry

In 2013 we gave out 15,300 lunches (an average of 1,676 lunches per month) to more than 500 hungry people (some of them were served often.) This is up from **12,510** lunches given out in 2012.

We were blessed by financial, food and lunch bag donations from six other Presbyterian churches and three Methodist ones. Many individuals also contributed to the funding of this ministry



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

In January we collected 40 lbs of useful food for Sacred Heart.

In 2013 we gave 635 lbs. of useful canned and packaged food to **Sacred Heart Community Services**. We have given **4,710 lbs. of food** since we began our monthly food drive five years ago in June, 2009.



Daffodils, the "Harbinger of Spring" growing Jan 27 between the church and Town Park Towers.

"God writes the Gospel not in the Bible alone, but also on trees, in the flowers, clouds and stars."

~ Martin Luther

On Sunday January 26, **Pastor Sharon** and Clerk of Session **John Fukasawa** install Deacon **Luana Reveles** and **Elder Ole Johnson** as new officers for the next term. **Teresa Johnson** also will serve as an elder and will be installed on another Sunday.



Dues, "Taxes" and Stewardship



People who have recently become Presbyterians and longtime members all have the privilege and responsibility to pay annual membership dues. This use of the wording "per capita tax" might be little off-putting. Perhaps "per person dues" would receive a better response. Service clubs, scouting, libraries, etc. have used dues as essential resources for centuries.

Dues better describes the use of this gift that is shared among three levels of Presbyterian governance plus as emergency assistance for clergy and church workers. It is good to realize that while we serve God's people here at FPC, we are able to assist other Presbyterians in providing essential ministry resources.

\$ 7.02 General Assembly
5.22 Synod of the Pacific
18.20 Presbytery of San Jose
.50 Emergency assistance
\$30.94

Please remember that your \$30.94 is in addition to your usual offering and that our church must submit this \$30.94, even for those who have not paid their share. This is where "stewardship" comes into play. If monthly payments (\$2.58) would work better in your budget, just note the portion of your tithe is for your per person dues so it can be properly noted in the accounting records. Please try and pay your per capita fees by April 1 if at all possible.

Finance Committee

2014 Annual Report

Members: Teresa Johnson, Jim Lathrop, Charlotte Powers, John Fukasawa, Pastor Sharon Hare and Judy Lococo.

The congregation has been aware of our church's significant financial challenges. Even so, it was voted unanimously at our November congregational meeting to continue our ministries, with God's help. We trust that our Lord will provide abundantly for us to serve our neighbors in need.

Individual donations have been significantly less than budget estimates. However, the shortfall is not as large it might have been because of the diligence of our committees in reducing expenses in every possible way and also in seeking new opportunities to raise income. Actual expenses closely matched our budget and committees continue to raise part of their operating expenses where possible. The most difficult adjustment that was made was in reducing the Administrative Assistant position from full time to 10 hours and therefore losing the skilled caring of Karleen Duchscherer. She will be greatly missed by all of us and we wish her the very best in her next life chapter.

We have been blessed with the increased rental of parking spaces that generates approximately \$1,000 monthly and also unexpected gifts and donations from beyond our membership. God has blessed us through the Front Door Ministry with not only partnership with other congregations but also two \$10,000 FD designated gifts from individuals. The donations to FD ministry assist our operating budget as 20% of monies received are directed to the General Fund.

Significant effort has been made to find other sources of long term income, and the Bright Futures task force continues to investigate other options.

Our members and friends are committed; however their financial support is not sufficient to provide all of the operating costs of the church, including pastoral leadership. Your Session has given priority to developing alternative strategies and will be communicating developments. Your continued prayer support continues to be crucial as we seek God's will and guidance.

NOTE!

For copies of the 2013 Profit and Loss Budget Statement, see printed copies on the Narthex table near the front door.

Respectfully submitted, **Judy Lococo**, Finance Committee

FREE UKULELE LESSONS

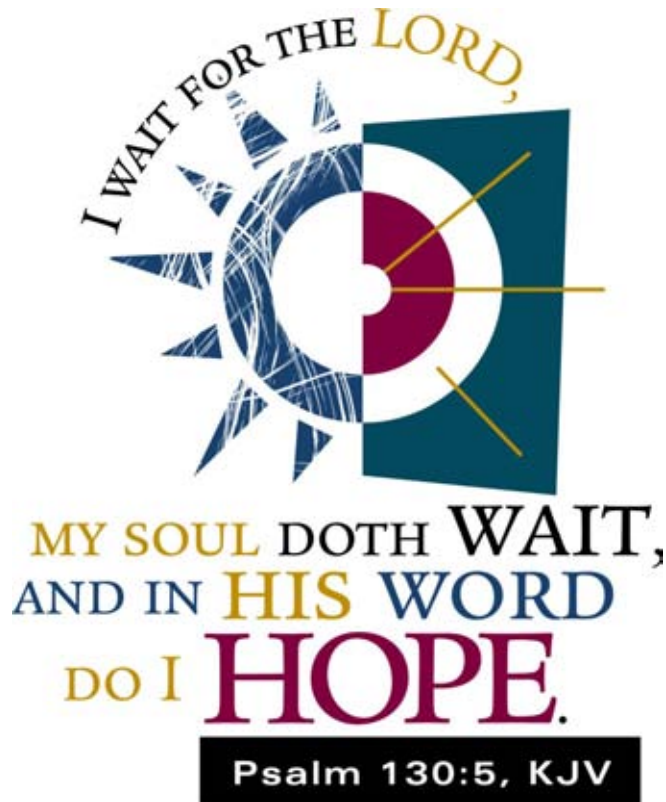
Are you interested in learning how to play the ukulele? **Dawn Imada** is currently teaching free classes at **Foothill Presbyterian Church** (5301 McKee Rd.)

- Beginning Ukulele (Soprano, Concert, or Tenor Ukulele) : Wednesdays from 9:30—10:30 a.m. in the Foothill Church Library
- Intermediate lessons on Tuesdays from 9:00 - 10:15 a.m. in the Foothill Sanctuary

Please call Dawn at 408 977 1738 or email her at dawn_imada@yahoo.com to sign up.

In February Dawn will also teach at 2 local libraries. If you don't already have a ukulele the libraries have a few to lend.

- Beginning Ukulele at the **Biblioteca Latinoamericana**, 921 S. First St., San Jose, Tuesdays at 4 p.m. Feb. 11, Feb. 18 and Feb. 25. Participants can sign up at the Information Desk or call (408) 294-1237.
- **East San Jose Carnegie Branch Library**, 1102 E. Santa Clara St., San Jose: Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m., Feb. 5, Feb. 12, Feb. 19, Feb. 26. Sign up at the Information Desk or call (408) 808-3075





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 **March, 2014** edition is **Monday, February 24, 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.

