



## Sharings from Sharon

Dear Friends:

*This is the plan that the Session and I came up with to present to the Presbytery. We have received a grant from Church Health and Growth to help pay a Volunteer Coordinator. **John Capuchino** has accepted that position and is now actively getting ready to oversee and expand the Front Door Ministry.*

*We have been hard at work and wanted to share with you where we are on our journey of honoring God in this place we call "Our Church".*

### A Bold Plan for First Presbyterian Church in San Jose

**First Presbyterian Church in San Jose** has had a long history of serving the community and proclaiming the good news of Jesus Christ. Many churches wonder and pray about what their mission should be, at First our mission came to our front door and by God's grace we have been able to see how God wants to use us in the downtown corridor of the City of San Jose. We have become a church that welcomes those people who many fail to notice or call the "homeless". We feed the homeless and hungry 4 days a week, providing bag lunches for more than 150 people each day. We also provide toiletries, socks and rain ponchos, encouragement, information, an occasional helping hand, pet food and referrals to others who provide services for the chronically homeless and the mentally ill population. Our worship service is attended by several homeless, who are genuinely welcomed and encouraged to participate. Many come early for a cup of coffee and a sweet roll and remain after the service for lunch and fellowship. Our gathering on Sunday Morning is an answer to prayer. Our church welcomes everyone and truly feels blessed when our neighbors feel welcome and at home on Sunday Morning.

We have been able to share our blessing with several churches in the area who have joined us in volunteering their time and providing money and bagged lunches to support our Front Door Ministry. Our desire is to not only to continue to provide these services but also to expand what we are now doing. Our expansion will include a drop-in center for homeless women, giving them a place where they can be safe for several hours a day, receive services from a social worker who now visits with people who "hangout" at the Library. We see the drop-in center as a changing and growing endeavor that will be determined by those who find a place of sanctuary here. It will be supported by volunteers and managed by the Pastor of First Presbyterian. (Continued on page 2)



## Easter Joy



Raja and Caitlyn Jacobs visited from far off Tracy and posed with Irene and John Capuchino and their precious girls Chiara and Anna in their Easter finery.



Teresa Johnson's niece Chloe, and John and Denise Gray's grandson enjoyed our post-worship egg hunt.



Travis Hyatt blew out the candles on some 90th Birthday cupcakes for the May 4 celebration after church. Many of Travis' family and friends joined us in the birthday fun.



## Sharon's Sharings (continued from page 1)

Our hope is that it will, like our lunch program be financially supported by gifts and grants. We have our first organizing meeting on April the 24<sup>th</sup>. Representatives from several community agencies who work with the homeless will participate as well as homeless women in this organization meeting.

We have several wishes as we look at our facilities. We dream of adding showers for the homeless and a washer and dryer. Until that happens we have talked with another Church to arrange use of their showers for our women.

We see our Sanctuary as a space that can be better utilized for the community during the week by turning it into a multi-purpose room. We are talking with the Bill Wilson Center about how we can be of service to homeless youth in downtown San Jose. Our Sanctuary may be able to serve as a classroom for homeless teens trying to get their GED and volunteers who can help tutor and mentor these young people. Many of our neighbors at TPT wake early each day to do Ti Chi, and our Sanctuary would be a place for that gathering. We are already exploring the possibility of providing a worship service in mandarin for our neighbors who are unable to travel and would welcome a worship experience in their native tongue.

TPT offers little in way of programing for the seniors. We have begun quarterly social interactions including several of the senior centers in downtown San Jose. They have been well received.

Our hope is to become a Center of Service in downtown San Jose, inviting our brothers and sisters within the Presbytery to take advantage of having an urban center for mission. At present, we host 5 high schools and colleges in urban plunge programs that enable the students to learn about poverty and ministry. These programs generate a modest income, but we feel with the expansion of the program it has the possibility to produce more income as well as generate a new excitement around urban ministry, especially with the Immanuel House only a few blocks away.

We have recently been contacted by Real Estate Developers who see the Urban Core as an up and coming center for housing and business. Urban professionals will be encouraged to reside in downtown San Jose. We see ourselves reaching out to these young people with a message of service. We would like to put a more modern face on our facility that invites people who have a desire to give back join with others in that endeavor.

We would like to hire a Volunteer Coordinator to work part-time staffing the various programs with trained volunteers. John Capuchino, who will be starting his Masters in Social Work at UCB this fall would like to serve in this capacity. We would like a grant from Church Health and Growth of \$36,000 to pay the salary for 2 years of the Volunteer Coordinator. That would give John a salary of \$1500.00 a month. John would also be charged with investigating and writing grants that would supplement the programs that we are fully engaged in performing.

In order to continue in ministry, particularly with the homeless and mentally ill, we face an uphill battle. Our membership needs to grow and how we fund ministry must take on a different face, because those who fill our pews give the "widows mite" and cannot contribute financially to this ministry.

In order to fulfill our vision we need time. With Real Estate developers in conversation with us we realize our land is increasing in value. We need 5 years to pull this program together. Therefore we are planning to seek Presbytery's help in financing the Pastor's Salary as well as upgrading the facility. It would be a Loan, repaid at the time the property is sold; either to relocate our church in the downtown core or to close our doors. If we succeed, the Presbytery will have an Urban Center of Service and First Presbyterian will continue to be a church dedicated to serving Christ through ministering to the least of these. If we fail----in the next 5 years hundreds of men, women, and children will have heard the Gospel Story and been touched by Christians who see Christ in each one of them. And God will have told us "Well done, good and faithful servants." And we can close our doors knowing that we have done God's work.

Our last plan is to allow our Pastor to vacate our Pulpit one Sunday a month to spread the story about the people who God is touching through First Presbyterian Church San Jose and those who have joined with us in ministry. We would like each church in the Presbytery to add us to their mission budget as well as their prayers and their participation. We believe that Pastor Sharon can share the story of who we are and what God is doing and invite others to join us. We will seek retired Pastors and Pastors not affiliated with other churches to fill our pulpet one Sunday a month, as a gift.

Joyfully in Christ's Service, *Pastor Sharon*



# FPC Mission

## Front Door Ministry



In April we made and gave out **2,219** lunches for the hungry people who came to our door.

So far this year we have given out **12,212** lunches. [We gave out **27,810** lunches in 2013.]

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

In April we gave **40 lbs.** of useful canned and packaged food to **Sacred Heart Community Services**. So far this year, we have donated **425 lbs.** of food, and **4,680 lbs.** of food since we began our monthly food drive five



# Heroes

On Sunday, April 6 we added "**Grandma**" **Joy Stanton** (pictured with **Anna Capuchino**) to our **FPC Hero Hall of Fame** which includes: **John Lococo**, **Susan** and **Travis Hyatt**, **Ole Johnson**, and church partners **Sister Marilyn Lacey**, Director of **Mercy Beyond Borders**, and **Maria Evans**, Principal of our partner **Washington Elementary School**.



## May Birthdays!

Travis Hyatt	May 4
Sharon Hare	May 13
Denise Gray	May 26



Our 2014 Congregational photo. Thanks, Mike Tierney!!

"I was thinking about how people seem to read the Bible a whole lot more as they get older; then it dawned on me - they're cramming for their final exam."

- **George Carlin**, late comedian



## CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!!

**Patrick Tierney**, son of **Lori** and **Mike Tierney**, will graduate from Pioneer High School this June and will continue his education at U.C. Davis and study Forensic Chemistry.

**Angela Kamau**, daughter of **Joseph** and **Jennifer Kamau**, is graduating on May 22 from San Jose State University with a Bachelors Degree in Business.



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:**

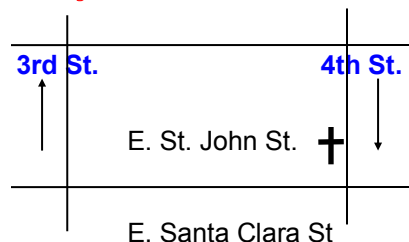
**Join us this Sunday!**

**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 pat.plant@gmail.com).



Deadline for the **June, 2014 edition** is **Monday, May 26, 2014.**