THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA SEPTEMBER 2006

Fall Brings "Great Expectations"

... and "Magic" Ice Cream too!

Sept. 10: Stone Church Rally Sunday: Setting "Great Expectations" for our church program year!

Please make an extra-special effort to attend *Rally Sunday* on Sunday, September 10. Many marvelous events are planned, including a worship service that will provide inspiration for our theme of *Great Expectations*.

Rally Sunday will allow you to discover all the ways our church works to serve its members, its children, and the community.

In the form of a *walk-around faire*, you will be able to see at one time, and in one place, all church boards, committees and organizations. The groups will demonstrate their varied activities by providing information on their charters and plans and by using displays and handouts. Both adult and children's education leaders will have details on their fall schedules, and you can register for classes. You'll also be able to sign up to participate in any group.

If you can arrive early, many exhibits will open at 9 am before worship, and all exhibits will be open after worship at 10:30 am.

Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to help our church establish a meaningful and enriching program year. With a special worship service and an enthusiastic kickoff, we can all set *Great Expectations* for our Stone family in 2006 and 2007.

Sept. 24: Stone Church Worship & Picnic at Kelley Park: Come one, come all ... except for the ants!

The annual gathering of the Stone Church family at History Park at Kelley Park for an outdoor experience of worship, food and fun will be Sunday, Sept. 24.

Worship will start at 10 am and will be immediately followed by a classic end-of-summer picnic. Hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken and veggie items will be provided hot off the grill. Bring your favorite picnic potluck side dishes and desserts to share with everyone. Games will be organized for kids and adults who like to get *in on the action*!

This is a great way to introduce people to Stone in a casual and relaxed atmosphere, so be sure to invite your friends.

Look for the sign-up table in the weeks before the event. Maps and more specific details will be made available as the event approaches. You can also easily register online (contact office for address). Just tell us how many are coming, your preferences for the grill items (hamburger, hot dog, chicken or veggie) and what you are bringing as potluck items. You can also check this website for details.

And remember to bring lawn chairs if you can. A small number of chairs will be provided for those without chairs or for visitors.

Please come! It's a great day in the park and a wonderful and interesting way in which to experience worship! *- Fred Oliver*

World's Premier Jesus Scholar, John Dominic Crossan, at Stone

Dr. John Dominic Crossan will be Stone Church's Henrietta Perdue Lecturer Oct. 27-28. Dr. Crossan will also preach Sunday morning, Oct. 29.

Dr. Crossan is generally acknowledged to be the premier historical Jesus scholar in the world. He was Co-Chair of the Jesus Seminar from 1985 to 1996 as it met in twice-annual meetings to debate the historicity of the life of Jesus as presented in the gospels. He is the author of 21 books on the historical Jesus and earliest Christianity; five have been national religious bestsellers for a combined total of 23 months.

The theme of his talks will be *The Historical Jesus Then and Now: The Challenge of the Kingdom of God*.

For a dominant majority in the world of the Roman Empire, Caesar's titles were Divine, Son of God, God, God from God, Lord, Liberator, Redeemer, and Savior of the World. For a tiny minority in and against that world, Jesus' titles were exactly these (and more) in a profound polemic that was not only non-violent treason against Rome but also a new creation for the earth.

Rome then is America now, the imperial East is the global West now. The race is still between global justice and global violence, but the stakes today are unimaginably higher because our capacity for violence is exponentially greater.

The Friday evening lecture (7:30 pm) is *The Roman World of the Jewish Jesus*. The Saturday talks are *The Life of Jesus* (9 am), *The Death of Jesus* (11 am), and *The Resurrection of Jesus* (1:30 pm). Cost is $20 for the Friday lecture, $20 for the Saturday talks, or $30 for the full series. Tickets will go on sale on Rally Sunday, September 10.

- Pat Magee

Church Library Introduces Mini-Reviews!

The library would like to introduce a new feature: mini-reviews! Please contact Sue Evans if you would like to write a mini-review of book in the church library.

Mini-review: *The Good News from North Haven: A Year in the Life of a Small Town, by* Michael L. Lindvall (813 LIN) *- reviewed by Sue Evans*

This little, easy-to-read book is a collection of delightful stories of a Presbyterian minister who starts his career in a small Minnesota town.

The author tells of his experiences in a humorous and simple dialogue and, at the end of each chapter, gives his view of how the event or situation came about in a spiritual way. The characters in the book are easy to visualize through his descriptions, and the things they do or say are often funny, although the reader can tell that the minister is very fond of the members of his congregation. This is a good book for vacation reading.

New books for young folks include:

Bunny and the Very Windy Day, by Liane Payne (1st Books Pay), given by Hazel and Bob James in memory of Margaret Brown

Knights of the Kitchen Table; *The Not-So-Jolly Roger*; *The Good, the Bad, and the Goofy*, all by Jon Scieszka (J Sci)

The City Kid's Field Guide, by Ethan Herberman (YA 591.9)

New books for adults include:

Misquoting Jesus: The Story Behind Who Changed the Bible and Why, by Bart Ehrman (225.486 Ehr), again by the James in memory of Margaret

How to Be a Perfect Stranger: The Essential Religious Etiquette Handbook, edited by Stuart Matlins (291 Mat), also by the James in memory of Margaret

Teacher Man by Frank McCourt (Biog McCourt)

Come browse in our library, or visit the book cart at coffee hour.

- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

Church and World Board Shares News, Offers Opportunity

San José Presbytery

The San José Presbytery meets Sat., Sept. 16, from 9 am to 2 pm, at the First Presbyterian Church of Monterey. Come for the meeting, Mission Faire and lunch. The Faire starts with a talk by Rebecca Young, of Louisville Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Liaison, and will also have information about the *Greening* of churches in our Presbytery. Stone is on its way, and anyone interested in environmental concerns should come. More information can be found on the C&W bulletin board.

Presbyterian Magazine

To share information with the congregation, and to recycle magazines received from Louisville, copies of *Presbyterians Today* are now available in the Narthex. Please help yourself, and you'll see what the Presbyterian Church (USA) is doing worldwide.

Long Term Care Ombudsman

C&W has recently received a message asking for help in recruiting volunteers for this program that advocates for the elderly who live in Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities within our community. C&W will have flyers available on Rally Sunday, Sept. 10. For more information, call Stephany Beane, Volunteer Supervisor (408-325-5134). *~ Bea Groppuso*

Fall Church School Starts with New Classes for Every Age

We're excited about possibilities for all ages in fall church school. Beginning with Rally Sunday, September 10, students will gather in new classes, meet teachers and Shepherds, and get a glimpse of the year ahead. All students will begin each Sunday in worship in the sanctuary, leaving as indicated in the bulletin. (Middle-schoolers will leave after the anthem.)

The preschool class, which includes three- and four-year-olds, will hear exciting Bible stories, including Creation, Joseph and Ruth. At a short preschool family meeting at 10:45 am, September 17, children will receive copies of *The Beginners Bible: Timeless Children's Stories*. As teacher Tina Luebcke shares the stories in class, parents can read and talk about them at home.

Rotation Model Workshops continue for K-5 students, looking at some interesting characters, Joseph, Ruth and Esther, plus the Christmas story through the eyes of the angels. Each two-Sunday rotation uses cooking, art, drama, computer lab, games, puppets, or videos. Check the Rotation stories on the church website and where to find them in two children's Bibles, to read at home. (Copies are available for purchase.) Students will begin each workshop with their adult Shepherd, checking in and building relationships.

On the first Sunday of each month, K-8 students will meet with our music team (see article below). It's exciting to provide this rich element we've been missing.

Middle schoolers, in addition to music once a month, will meet in room 5 with teachers Kate Wheatley, Steve Nelson and Rosaleen Zisch, to explore the Rotation stories in their own way.

Many Adult Education classes are available on Sundays at 11 am, always with childcare (see article below).

Church School is the place to be this fall, and we hope to see you!

- God bless, Miriam Kishi,
CE Associate

Adult Ed: Resurrection & Stewardship

Here are descriptions of two fascinating upcoming Adult Classes:

September 17, October 1-15: What do you mean - "Resurrection"?

Some say resurrection is the centerpiece of faith; some say it is myth or a nice story of hope; some say it was resuscitation of a corpse; some say pious followers stole the body; some say resurrection is Christ's living presence in ongoing dynamic fellowship.

The four sessions will begin with New Testament narratives, note how Second Century Gnostic Christians recast resurrection, then compare how recent theologians explain Christ's continuing impact. Dale & Barbara Bracey will lead this interactive class.

October 1-15: Artists' Views of Stewardship

An artist is not a special person; every person is a special artist.

In this class lead by David McCreath, we will consider a variety of artistic media — music, poetry, paintings, and the like — as a way of exploring the spiritual disciplines of stewardship. Members of the class will be encouraged to contribute examples for discussion.

Rally Sunday is September 10, and the Church Picnic is September 24; there will be no adult classes these mornings.

- Pat Magee

Campers enjoy the beach during the Stone Church Family Camping Trip at Costanoa

Notes from the Christian Education Board

Music for All Ages

Starting in October, Communion Sundays will be a time of special music for our K-8 students. They will begin in worship as usual, but when they leave, they will learn and enjoy Christian music. A special music team, composed of Della Smith, Janice Goertz, Kate Wheatley, Lizanne Oliver and Judy West, will teach traditional, as well as contemporary pieces. Learning what our hymnal contains between its covers and creating joyous sounds using the bell set will be included. Volunteers are welcome!

Coming Attractions: Middle School

Watch for the posting of the Middle School Schedule, 2006-7, to include Friday Night Dinners, Sunday Morning Studies, a Mission Trip, Confirmation Journey ... plus lots more!

Help the Rabbits Multiply!

To send rabbits to families in need through Heifer International, $270 has been donated so far, another $100 has been pledged, and other pledges have been made to specific church school students. If your donation is still coming, mark it for *Heifer Project*.

- Rosaleen Zisch & Miriam Kishi

Session Beat

As this was the first Session meeting with newly elected Elders, some routine information was presented.

Emily Meacham, Editor, *The Stone News*, gave new guidelines for article submission and reminded Session that articles *must* be sponsored by a board or committee.

Dick Kistler, Church Treasurer, explained the process for spending budgeted funds using vouchers.

The Church Information Form (CIF) was approved by Session after a presentation by Jody Meacham and questions from Session members. (See the article at right for more information on the CIF.)

Fred Oliver, Membership & Evangelism Committee Moderator, asked how we could help the community in this time of war in Iraq and Lebanon. Possibilities included having the church open for meditation. It was mentioned that October 1 is *Peacemaking Sunday* for the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Greening the Church was discussed. Mel Goertz described a program of recycling using biodegradable products, which will be considered next month.

Session voted to include compensation for the Financial Secretary in the 2007 budget.

Session voted to purchase the original watercolor of the *newly renovated* Stone Church by Lyn Johnson, currently used as our bulletin cover. The artwork has historical significance, and its purchase recognizes Lyn's enormous gift to the church over the years.

Fred Oliver reminded Session members to inform him of their plans for Rally Sunday, Sept. 10.

The Presbytery of San José will hold its last meeting of the year on Saturday, November 18, at Stone Church. This meeting will be the last one moderated by Rebecca Kuiken.

Bea Groppuso, Church & World Committee Moderator, reminded Session that the Rotating Shelter program has been canceled by Community Inns for lack of funds. Stone had budgeted $1000 for the program, and that money will be added to Presbytery General Mission.

- Alice Thorn, Clerk of Session

New Session Assignments, 2006–7

Here are the Session Assignments for church year, 2006-7:

Budget and Finance: Mel Goertz, Moderator; Ruth McCreath, Elder

Buildings and Grounds: Michael Donald, Moderator; David Moncrief, Elder

Christian Education: Rosaleen Zisch, Moderator; Rick James, Elder

Church and World: Bea Groppuso, Moderator; Suzanne Wolf, Elder

Membership and Evangelism, Fred Oliver, Moderator

Nominating Committee: Catherine Amos, Moderator

Personnel and Administration: Jody Meacham, Moderator; Bob Lowry, Elder

Stewardship: Derk Johnson, Moderator

Worship: Deborah Crim, Moderator; Ed Tablak, Elder

Alan Decker's assignment is TBD (to be decided).

- Jody Meacham

PNC Completes CIF

The Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) is excited to announce that we have reached an important milestone in our journey to find Stone Church a wonderful new pastor. After much deliberation and animated discussion, we have completed the Church Information Form (CIF), which includes details from the church's mission study, accomplishments, skills and key theological issues reflected in the ministry of our congregation; together with the responsibilities and skills that we are looking for in our new pastor.

The CIF was approved by the Session on Tuesday, August 8, and the Presbytery Committee on Ministry on Monday, August 14. The CIF is now being posted in the Church Leadership Connection section of the Presbyterian Church (USA) website (PCUSA.org) and will be available to pastors seeking positions. We are also planning to place ads in *The Christian Century* and *The Presbyterian Outlook* magazines to widen the search.

Within the next few weeks, we will be receiving resumés of pastors who match our requirements, and each one of us looks forward to evaluating the candidates. We may receive in excess of 150 resumés from candidates over the next few weeks and months; and since we intend to be thorough in our search, it will take some time.

Please know that we are just as anxious and excited as you are to find the perfect pastor to make Stone Church whole again, and we appreciate your patience as this search proceeds. Meantime, we are eternally grateful to the Reverend Marge Palmer for doing a first-class job as interim pastor and her graciousness and patience in the process.

If you'd like to take a look at the Church Information Form, there is a link at the bottom of the HOME page in this website, or you can find it directly by going to www.stonechurch.org/ChurchInformationForm.php

- Alison R.G. van Diggelen

News from Presbyterian Women

Stone Church's Presbyterian Women (PW) are looking forward to another busy year after a rather quiet, for us, summer.

Campbell Soup Labels are always welcome in the PW box. Judy Dilts continues to handle this project, which aids Menaul School.

The next Habitat for Humanity Women's build project will be on October 28, and Tina Luebcke is the contact.

Janice Goertz leads the Prayer Shawl Ministry, which welcomes all knitters.

Here is our September schedule:

- Amethyst Circle meets at 1 pm, September 6, in the church library.
- Emerald Circle meets at 9:30 am, September 7; the location will be announced in the Sunday bulletin.
- Sapphire Circle meets at 7:30 pm, September 11, at Marilyn Gardner's.
- Book Group 1 meets September 11 at Liz Shandera's to discuss *Skywriting: A Life Out of the Blue*, by Jane Pauley.
- Book Group 2 meets at 2:30 pm, September 8, at Janice Goertz's to discuss *Truth and Beauty: A Friendship*, by Ann Patchett. Next on their list is *Autobiography of a Face*, by Lucy Grealy.
- Lunch Bunch meets 11:30 am, September 12 (always the second Tuesday) at the Taiwan Restaurant; call Ida Raby for details.
- And most important: Bible Study, with the Rev. Marge Palmer, meets at 9:30 am, September 28, in the church library (always the fourth Thursday).

- Catherine Amos

Claudia Hamm, Diana Lim, Catherine Edwards, Dulcie Janzen, Miriam Kishi (representing Sunnyvale Pres), Tina Luebcke, Linda Hagan (also representing Sunnyvale), and Sheri Cunningham, at the 2006 Churchwide Gathering of PW.

Taking the Gathering Home

Six Stone Church women, Claudia Hamm, Diana Lim, Catherine Edwards, Dulcie Janzen, Tina Luebcke and Sheri Cunningham, joined 3,131 Presbyterian Women in Louisville, KY, in early July, to be inspired, stretched, challenged, instructed, nurtured and entertained at the 2006 Churchwide Gathering of PW. This year's theme was *Creation! Celebration! God's Word – Light for the Journey*.

Each day began and ended with plenary sessions that expanded the theme, for example, *Diversity in Community*, *Economic Justice*, and *Women's Leadership in the Church*. Included were music and singing, scripture, prayer, Bible study (led by the Rev. Dale Lindsay Morgan of Santa Barbara), storytelling, a visit from Joan Gray (Moderator of the 217th General Assembly), and hearing from some of our Global Partners (particularly Benedita de Silva of Brazil, who went from a life of poverty to serving in the cabinet of the current Brazilian President, Lula de Silva).

In the afternoon, 60 workshops and several mission trips were offered, or you could visit the Cokesbury Bookstore, the *Celebration Corners/Great Room* for PW resources, and the *Enough for Everyone Global Marketplace* to meet and share with our Global Partners.

The business meeting was an important part of the Gathering. 371 voting delegates decided on budget, election of new leaders for the 2006-2009 triennium, by-laws revisions, and adopting the issue of immigration as the justice and peace emphasis for 2006-2009 triennium, along with the continuation to monitor progress on the antiracism initiative. The most exciting action was the adoption of the new hands-on mission program for Presbyterian Women called *Together in Service*. (See the PW table on Rally Sunday for details.)

In celebration of the Decade of the Child, we were asked to bring children's shoes and socks. Over 7,522 pairs of shoes and an estimated 40,000 pairs of socks, plus $500 cash, were given to the Salvation Army in Louisville and a smaller program at a Louisville Presbyterian church. Brazilian women took home 50-100 pairs of shoes for their mission programs. Our Gathering offering raised $60,000+ to be divided between the Rural Coalition, Agricultural Missions, Inc., and Widening the Circle Fund.

The Gathering experience varies for each of us. Please ask us to share our own experiences with you.

- Claudia Hamm, Vice-moderator for Program, PW of Stone Church

A beautiful shot at Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center by Dan Raby

Choir Members Attend Summer Sing

Three members of the Stone Church Choir, Bill Downes, Dan Raby and Jean Raby, recently joined 147 other voices at the annual *Summer Sing*, at Zephyr Point Presbyterian Conference Center, which offers a time of renewal and re-tuning for people involved in worship and music.

The theme this year was *Fruits of the Selfless Heart*, a devotional based on the writings of Mother Teresa. The choir rehearsed and presented the Joseph Haydn *Little Organ Mass* plus several other works, one written and directed by Allan Petker, a well-known composer of spiritual music.

In addition to Mr. Petker, leaders included Dr. Katharin Rundus and Dr. Jo Ann Miller. All are impressively credentialed musicians.

Summer Sing concluded with a festival worship service on Sunday, based on the *Fruits of the Selfless Heart* theme. *- Dan Raby*

Join Us at the Choir Retreat!

Have you ever considered joining the choir? Now is the time to realize your dream!

All singers are invited to the choir's annual Fall Retreat, on Saturday, September 16, from 9 am to 4 pm at the beautiful and serene Sanborn Park Youth Hostel in Saratoga.

The choir is now under the leadership of Nancy Wait Kromm (Nancy will be introduced in the Oct. issue).

Please contact Emily Meacham if you are interested if attending the retreat.

Choir members Lizanne Oliver and Lyn Johnson at one of the choir's many fun and festive events!

Frappucinos on the Stone Church patio -- a summer tradition!

Thanks to Walter and Debbie Roach (in shadow) and Mary (back to camera) and Derk Johnson for the treat.

The Stewardship Board presents

New Consecration Sunday, October 22

It's new; it's exciting.

Put it on your calendar now!

You won't want to miss it!

A friendly conversation at last year's Women"s Retreat at St. Francis

Women's Retreat Still at St. Francis!

The annual Stone Church Women's Retreat will still be held at the St. Francis Retreat Center, in San Juan Bautista, on March 23-25, 2007, despite a recent fire at the center.

St. Francis is continuing to hold retreats, with a few modifications: the Friars are now living in the Casita, and they are using a modular unit for dining and other needs.

There will be more about the retreat in upcoming issues; stay tuned for more information.

- Jan Keifer

Welcome, Victor!

You have seen the results of his efforts, and we love what we see. Victor Perez, our new custodian, says he likes working with us and wants to do the "best job possible!" Victor also works for the San José Unified School District and has a wife, Astonia, and five children, Adrian, Astonia, Pahaki, Victor, Jr., and Celeste. He has been a resident of San José for a long time. Thank you, and welcome, Victor! *- June Tablak*

Having fun in the sand during the Stone Church Family Camping Trip at Costanoa.

About 30 adults and children attended this wonderful annual event!