

THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

JUNE 2007



Dear Friends,

Two years and four months ago, the Session of Stone Church voted to call me as your stated supply/interim pastor. I expected, after ten years of retirement, that it would be a challenge to resume full-time ministry. What I didn't foresee was that it would be a time of growth, fulfillment, and joy for me. That it has been such a positive experience is due to your kindness, patience, and love, as well as your commitment to the church and unusual leadership abilities. The duties of an interim pastor are to carry on the usual responsibilities of a minister, to help the congregation heal from whatever feelings they may have at the departure of the previous minister, and to prepare for the arrival of the next installed pastor. I think you are now in a good position to move on.

My last Sunday to preach is June 10, although I will continue with pastoral and administrative duties until the end of June. The reason for leaving the pulpit on the tenth is to give you a little space between my last Sunday and Ken Henry's first Sunday, which is July first. With his arrival, you will begin a new and wonderful ministry, and I know you will greet and support him with the same enthusiasm and affection as you did me.

There is no way I can adequately express my gratitude for the privilege of being your pastor except to say thank you, thank you! Although I will no longer be your pastor, I will always be your friend. May God be with each of you.

Faithfully yours, Marge Palmer



*Rev. Marge Palmer bids us adieu,
but only so we can prepare for
our new pastor ... she and Bill
will be back with us soon.*

Much-Beloved Interim Pastor, Marge Palmer, to be Honored

We're going to miss Marge Palmer.

For a little while.

She will preach the last sermon of her tenure with us as interim pastor on Sunday, June 10, when she will be honored for her service. Then she and her husband Bill, like Marge a retired Presbyterian pastor, will leave our congregation for a few months while we settle in with our incoming pastor, Rev. Dr. Ken Henry.

Marge was named interim pastor March 1, 2005, after Rev. Art Mills left to take a position with the Presbyterian Board of Pensions. Her ministry to us was marked by devotion to our congregation, care for every member, and being a stickler regarding the *Book of Order*.

Before accepting the call to be interim pastor, she and Bill had worshiped with us for three years, and Marge was our parish associate - preaching, visiting the sick, and teaching classes.

The Palmers came to Stone Church after retiring from their positions in upstate New York and moving to the El Sombroso Oaks community in Los Gatos.

Marge grew up in New York State and graduated in sociology from Keuka College in Keuka Park, NY. She received a masters degree in religion and psychology from the University of Chicago and another masters in divinity from Union Theological Seminary in New York City.

(continued on page 6)

Adult Study Offers Look at Pilgrimage, Answers to Hard Questions

Stone Church offers discussion-based adult study most Sundays, 11 am to noon, in the Fireside Room.

There will be no Adult Study class on June 10.

June 3: The Second Holy Land: A Pilgrimage through Turkey



John Dominic Crossan reads inscription in Roman temple of Priene.

Join Pat and Sally Magee as they present a slide show summary of their 17-day trip through Turkey with New Testament scholars, Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan (Dr. Crossan is pictured at left).

Summer: Serious Answers to Hard Questions

Beginning June 17 and extending through August 12, there will be a series of *drop-in* classes with the common theme: *Serious Answers to Hard Questions*.

Life presents us with a lot of hard questions. In the presentation videos, ten Christian and Jewish theologians, world experts in their respective fields, address issues, such as the tension between evangelism and tolerance,

that are obstacles to faith for many both in and outside of the church. We will explore and discuss one issue each Sunday.

- ☛ June 17 - Evil: Why is there evil? Where does it come from? Can it be defeated?
- ☛ June 24 - How should we relate to people of other faiths?
- ☛ July 1 - Tension between evangelism and tolerance
- ☛ July 15 - Sins of the church
- ☛ July 22 - Forgiveness
- ☛ July 29 - Jesus and Christianity
- ☛ August 5 - Resurrection
- ☛ August 12 - The Gnostic Gospels

- Pat Magee, Christian Education

Library Expands and Continues to Add Excellent Selections

Our new, improved Stone Church Library recently expanded into the room next door; this space now houses the start of the adult collection, books numbered 001-299: Philosophy, Psychology, and Religion.

Now, the adult books are no longer crowded, some YA (young adult) books have moved across the library, and children's non-fiction has gained some much-needed space. We hope you'll come and see the new layout,

even though we're still finishing some of the details.

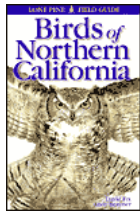
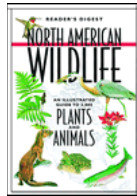
On each second and fourth Sunday, we'll have a volunteer to help you after church, until at least 11 am.

- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

New Items in Special Collections:

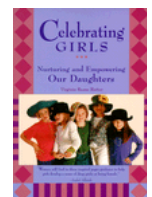
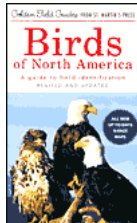
The following three books were given by Catherine Amos:

North American Wildlife by Reader's Digest (Ecol 574 Rea)



Birds of Northern California by David Fix & Andy Bezener (Ecol 598 Fix)

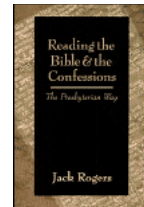
Guide to Field Identification of Birds of North America by Chandler Robbins (Ecol 598 Rob)



Celebrating Girls: Nurturing & Empowering Our Daughters by Virginia Rutter (Family 306.8 Rut), given by Rebecca Kuiken

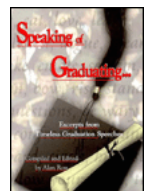
New Books for Adults:

The Dream Book: Symbols for Self-Understanding by Betty Bethards (135 Bet)



Reading the Bible & the Confessions the Presbyterian Way by Jack Rogers (238 Rog), given by Christian Education

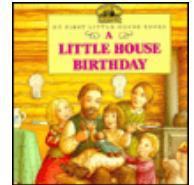
Searching for a Pastor the Presbyterian Way by Dean Foose (285 Foo), given by the PNC



Speaking of Graduating: Excerpts from Timeless Graduation Speeches, ed. by Alan Ross (808.87 Ros)

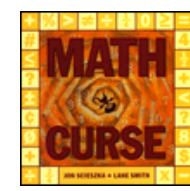
New Books for Young Folks:

A Little House Birthday by Laura Ingalls Wilder (1st Books Wil)



Silly Goose and Dizzy Duck Play Hide-and-Seek by Sally Grindley (1st Books Gri), given by Vivian Shimmom

Fun & Games: Stories Science Photos Tell by Vicki Cobb (YA 507.8 Cob)



Math Curse by Jon Scieszka & Lane Smith (YA Sci)

Miriam's Column

Dear Friends,

In the nearly five years that I've been at Stone Church, we've worked together to include young people as an essential part of today's church family. Yes, we're preparing them for the future, but that happens best when they experience being the church now.

They are welcomed at Communion, have added their talents to mission work days, help with food collection, appreciate your support for the *Read to Feed* summer project (sign up this June as they read to buy bees!), joined intergenerational events such as the Seder Dinner, Advent Wreath-making, and using stones to *Imagine the Possibilities ...* and so much more.

Recently our Rotation classes looked

at the story of Peter and Cornelius and learned that God welcomes all people into the church. In addition to making self-portraits for the mural indicating *We Are One in Christ*, some students shared stories and pictures of times when they felt welcome and a part of Stone Church. I want to share some of those with you (*please see the pictures and stories below*).

On the Day of Pentecost, May 27, students prepared a party for the birthday of the church and the coming of the Holy Spirit.

I hope Stone Church members will continue to consider how to include young people in their church life and value their contributions. I'm excited about the future of Stone Church and believe that as you continue to place your *Hope in God*, good things

will happen here. God will be able to work through you in new and wonderful ways.

It's been determined that the church will be going in new directions and that it is best for me to retire. June 3 will be my last Sunday, the day we also thank the many people who have contributed to our Christian education programs in the past school year.

Thank you for making me feel welcome at Stone Church and, on behalf of the young people, for your inclusion of every age into this family of God.

God bless, Miriam

Editor's Note: Please join us Sunday, June 3, as we honor the loving service of Miriam Kishi, our Christian Education Associate.

Stone Church Children share stories, pictures illustrating, "When did you feel welcome and a part of Stone Church?"



Emily Springer

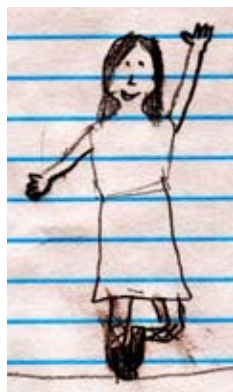
Six and a quarter years ago, I came back to North America from a year in Spain. I barely remembered anyone, and I was kind of shy. But when I came back to Stone Church, everyone really seemed to like me and my brother. We felt really welcomed into the church again.

- Maddie McNelis



I feel happy that I learn about Jesus.

- Heather Sailor



Last year, on Easter Sunday, I felt welcome, especially when bagpipers came and danced and played the bagpipes. I cannot remember much of it, but I can remember I felt very welcome in the church on Easter.

- Megan Ritchie

Yo soy feliz porque me gusta el arbol y me gusta las galletas. (I am happy because I like the tree, and I like the cookies.)

- Ellen Nilson



Church & World Guides Us to Help Others and God's Creation

The Church & World Committee continues to seek for new ways to share the love of Jesus Christ with our brothers and sisters throughout our neighborhood and the world.



Sacred Heart Community Service

Ten Stone Church members went to Sacred Heart Community Service on Saturday, May 19, from 9 am to noon. We sorted and hung clothes, straightened shelves, and generally got the Clothes Closet ready for clients who will be coming in to shop for their family needs. At noon, we adjourned to our social hall for lunch together, and to recall what we had accomplished. Thanks to Maureen Ryan, Sally Magee, Ann Pierce, Bill Palmer, Hilleguus and Gabriel Faber, Alison and Tanera van Diggelen, and Bea and Fred Groppuso.

We talked about going once a month or so and inviting someone new to this experience to share it with us. Would you be interested?



Greening of Stone Church

Rhonda Lakatos has agreed to be the Church & World Coordinator for working toward the *Greening of Stone Church*.

In this role, she will work with the Building & Grounds Committee and a *Greening Checklist* to help us and our church be better stewards of God's Creation.



Pentecost Offering

As you read this, we will be in the process of making our donation to the churchwide *Pentecost Offering*.

This year, as in years past, we are privileged to donate 40% of the offering received to a local ministry that works with *youth at risk*; this year, our beneficiary will be the Bill Wilson Center, where former foster care youth are given skills and guidance on how to live independently.



Presbyterians Today

We want to hear from you when your subscription to the magazine *Presbyterians Today* is delivered to your home in a month or so. What articles did you find interesting and/or informative, and/or inspiring? We look forward to your comments.



Spring 2008 in El Salvador

It's not too early to talk about next Spring. (Time flies when you are having fun.) For a few years, our own Dale Bracey has been a volunteer delegate to El Salvador supporting local issues and grassroots solidarity with El Salvadorans. Dale is planning to go again next spring, and in his words, "... would be thrilled to take one or two youth from Stone Church with me ..." So, you *mission-minded* youth of Stone, give this some thought!

- Bea Groppuso, C&W Moderator

Vacation Church School Travels Back in Time

Have you ever wondered: *What was it like to live in Bible times? What did kids do for fun back then? Why did huge crowds want to listen to Jesus?*

Find the answers to these questions - and more - during Vacation Church School at Galilee By-the-Sea!

- Dates: 6/18 - 22; Marketplace reenactment after 6/24 worship
- Time: Gathering begins at 9 am; Village Gates close at noon.
- Who: Students aged 4 years - completing 5th grade will be part of a Tribe; students completing 6th - 12th grades will assist, with a special Thursday afternoon activity just for them.
- Registration (please by 6/10): call the church office (269-1593); use the form at www.stonechurch.org; sign up after worship (6/3 & 10); or contact Janice Goertz.



A Galilean woman, who bore a striking resemblance to our own Janice Goertz, recently visited the social hall to invite everyone to Galilee By-the-Sea!

Summer Church School Also Cares for Creation

The theme of this summer's Church School will be *Caring for God's Creation*.

Rachel Buckley, along with Rhonda Lakatos, will be the coordinator of the summer classes. Rachel, a high school group member and junior at Notre Dame High School, has a keen interest in the environment.

Beginning June 10 and continuing through August 26, kindergarten through 5th graders will share songs, stories, games and crafts that will help them learn more about our world and how even kids can take care of it.

Middle School students are welcome to serve as helpers, and preschoolers ready for a group experience can join us too. We'll be needing adult helpers each week. Please sign up for a Sunday when you can help. - Rhonda Lakatos, CE



News from PW

"Summer time and the livin' is easy ..." maybe not easy, but a bit easier for most of us.

Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery held its annual meeting on May 20 at St. Andrew in Aptos. It was a most successful business meeting, installation of new co-ordinating team members, and a refreshing, spiritual Communion Service. For those of you who didn't make it, try to come next year. Getting to know others in the Presbytery is most rewarding at these gatherings.

Stone PW will conclude its program year on June 7 with a salad luncheon at Evelyn Radunich's home. If you are not in a circle and would like to attend, please call or email Claudia Hamm. This is the time when we have our Birthday Offering, bring baby items for the Public Health Nurses, have elections and installation of officers and, of course, eat.

Presbyterian Women are taking a vacation from circle meetings, but will continue to meet for Book Groups, Focus Group, Lunch Bunch, and Prayer Shawl Group. Our next event will be the August Brunch in the social hall: the theme is *Health Care for All*.

Watch the bulletin for news about the introduction to the 2007-2008 *Horizon Bible Study* to be held at San Francisco Theological Seminary on Saturday, September 15.



Here is the PW June Schedule

Focus Group, Tuesday, June 5, 9:30 am, at Elizabeth Shandera's home.

Book Group I, 1 pm, at Elizabeth Shandera's home (book and date to be announced).

Book Group II, Monday, June 18, 2:30 pm, at Claudia Hamm's home, reading *A Lantern in Her Hand* by Bess Streeter Aldrich.

Lunch Bunch, Tuesday, June 12, 11:30 am, Taiwan Restaurant in Willow Glen.

Prayer Shawl Group, Thursday, June 28, 4 pm, in the Fireside Room.

- Catherine Amos, PW



The Kindergarten-Grade 2 class recently made self-portraits during church school, ably led by skilled artists, Chris Luebcke and Alison van Diggelen.

Session Beat

The May 8 meeting of Session began with a visit from Leland Wong, who instituted and leads the Men's Mission Team work trips.

He presented a check for \$110, a tithe of proceeds from the Crab Feed fundraiser for the work trips. Leland was fulfilling a promise he had made to give ten percent of the proceeds toward paying down the church's mortgage. Session thanked Leland and all who make both the trips and the fundraiser possible.

Session heard from young people who have gone through the confirmation class and will be joining Stone Church. Present were Kendall Searing (with mentor Bruce Raby), Matthew Schroeder (with mentor Mike Breuleux), Christopher Duke (with mentor Bob Lowry), and Alexandra Bowers (whose mentor, Laraine Pitcher, could not be present). Jordan Olmstead has also gone through the class, but was ill and could not appear. Each confirmand read a

Statement of Faith written as part of the program. After a time of discussion and commendations for their bravery in writing and presenting their statements, the Session voted to accept the four into membership, and to authorize baptism for Jordan whenever he can complete the process for joining.

The Clerk noted that attendance at Easter Worship was 371.

Session accepted with regret the resignation of Renate Lytle from Deacons and of Gordon Meacham as youth Deacon.

Deborah Crim reported on finding solutions to the crowded seating in the choir loft. Session discussed her presentation, and encouraged her to continue to refine a proposal by getting needed information and researching costs.

As a safety measure, a defibrillator is to be purchased and kept on site. Buildings & Grounds Moderator, Mike Donald, is working with Parish Nurse, Mary Johnson, to upgrade first-aid kits and emergency response capabilities.

- Alice Thorn, Clerk of Session

Rev. Marge Palmer to be Honored

(continued from page 1)

In 1989, after a 20-year career in administration, Marge was ordained to the office of Minister of the Word and Sacrament in Hudson River Presbytery, where she served five churches and was pulpit supply for more than 40 churches.

Marge was recently elected moderator of San Jose Presbytery. Bill is the presbytery's refugee ministry coordinator. They are parents of three grown children and three grandchildren.

Please plan to attend Sunday, June 10, when we will recognize Marge during the Worship service and afterward at a reception.



Vivace Family Concert

Vivace Youth Chorus would like to extend an invitation to all members of Stone Church to be our guests on Saturday, June 2, at 4 pm, at Stone Church.

Families with or without young children are welcome! Please call our office (979-9997) to let us know you are coming.

Join Us at Mt. Cross This Summer!

Hiking! Swimming! Evening campfire! Sunday worship under the redwoods!

Stone Church will once again be camping at Mt. Cross, in the beautiful Santa Cruz Mountains, the weekend of August 10 - 12. Whether as singles, pairs, or families, all are welcome for a weekend of fun and fellowship among the redwoods. We will be doing our own cooking. Cost is \$25 per person, or \$90 per family, including food.

Contact Maureen Searing for details or look for the sign-up table during coffee time.



Stone Church was wonderfully represented at the annual CWS CROP Walk for the Hungry by our very enthusiastic Middle School Fellowship and some young-at-heart adults! Lizanne Oliver and Emily Meacham will be chairing next year's event and are hereby giving you a year's notice to get ready to WALK! This is such a fun and worthwhile event that there is absolutely no reason not to come out and join us!



Seen and Heard in the Social Hall during Coffee Time!

Three lovely “Moms” on Mother’s Day! Alice Bailey, Barbara Roberts, and Carrie Moncrief Giorgianni (above) share a moment during coffee time in the social hall. Carrie is holding a beautiful bouquet presented to her during the Worship service by her son, David Moncrief.



Everyone helped out with the cookie sale for the High School Group’s mission trip fundraising effort!

Anne Storer, one of the wonderful High School Group advisors (right), beams with each donation to the “contribution cooler”!



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Catherine Amos, Fred Gardner,
Dulcie Janzen, Jan Keifer, Jerry Keifer,
Sylvia Snyder: Production



On a recent Sunday morning, Bob Fraser tries out "Scooter," one of the High School Group's famous hammers. The group made delicious cookies to raise money for their upcoming mission trip to help build houses in the central valley.



Children in the trees ~ a typical Sunday morning sight!

REMINDERS FOR JUNE 2007:

JUNE 2 - 9 AM TO 3 PM
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS
COMMITTEE ALL-CHURCH
WORKDAY

JUNE 3 - 9:30 AND 11 AM
HONORING MIRIAM KISHI,
CHURCH SCHOOL STAFF
RECOGNITION & RECEPTION

JUNE 9 - 9 AM
REV. DR. KEN HENRY
DEFENDS HIS STATEMENT
OF FAITH AT SAN JOSE PRES-
BYTERY, CALVIN PRESBYTE-
RIAN CHURCH, CORNER OF
MERIDIAN AND FRUITDALE

JUNE 10 - 9:30 AND 11 AM
HONORING REV. MARGE
PALMER, INTERIM PASTOR,
DURING WORSHIP AND AT A
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW

JUNE 18-22 - 9 AM TO NOON
VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL
IN GALILEE BY-THE-SEA