

THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

AUGUST 2007



VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL WAS FULL OF UNEXPECTED AND MAGICAL MOMENTS – LIKE BEING IN A BOAT RIGHT HERE ON THE STONE CHURCH LAWN!

Pastor's Column

CLOUDS IN SAN JOSE? NO PROBLEM FOR THIS PASTOR

by The Reverend Doctor Ken Henry

On Wednesday of this week, the *San Jose Mercury News* quoted a local vendor of frozen yogurt in Willow Glen. Apparently, with the “mist” lightly falling, as well as his sales, he looked up at the dark rolling clouds overhead and commented: “I thought the world was coming to an end.” Albeit, this was the first time in recorded history that it rained on July 18 in San Jose – a record-busting one-hundredth of an inch of rain – but still, I think his comments are worthy of pastoral reflection.

Indeed, if you conduct a word search on *clouds* in the biblical texts,

Old and New, whenever a puffy cumulous shows up, God isn't far behind. Just ask Moses or Noah.

Now, from my perspective, a recent transplant from Oregon, when I looked up to see those dark, depressing, shadowy beauties stumbling across the Santa Cruz mountains, I rolled down my car window and shouted, “Hallelujah!” ... yet I realize, it's all a matter of perspective.

As I complete my first month as pastor at Stone Church of Willow Glen, in truth, I have come to appreciate the soul-soaking rainfall pouring forth from a very different kind of cloud. Paul or the author of Hebrews would call it, “the great cloud of witnesses.” (Heb. 12:1.) This cloud has fed me, warmly welcomed me, brought cookies to my place at El Sombroso Oaks, let me swim in its pool, and even provided me with a couch. However, I am not the only one at Stone Church who has benefited. This cloud folds bulletins, answers phones during

the week, graciously sings unfamiliar hymns on Sunday mornings (I'll work on that), visits church members in the hospital, and joyfully supports the mission and ministry we share together.

Don't get me wrong. I enjoy the sunny days of summer, but I have a hunch this great Presbyterian cloud of witnesses hovering over the corner of Lincoln and Clark is here to stay.



Thank you

A day worth marking on your calendar:

On Sunday, Sept. 9, at 3 pm, the Presbytery of San Jose will formally install me as Pastor at Stone Church. Rev. David Beamer, Pastor Emeritus, will preach, Rev. Dr. Bob Bowles will give a charge to the congregation, Rev. Marge Palmer will ask me constitutional questions, Rev. Mark Burnham will charge me as your pastor, and several other pastors and friends of Stone will attend. Hope to see you there.



Twenty-four Stone Church members (just some are in the picture) attended the recent Zephyr Experience 2007, at which our own Pat Magee was Dean. Many people said it was the best year ever! Congratulations, Pat, on a job well-done and on volunteering to serve again as Dean for 2008!

Adult Study Classes Continue to “Answer Hard Questions”

The series of Sunday morning *drop-in* Adult Study classes with a common theme, *Serious Answers to Hard Questions*, continues through August.

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 that are obstacles to faith for many, both in and outside of the church.

☛ August 5 - Resurrection

☛ August 12 - The Gnostic Gospels

☛ August 26 - The God of the Old Testament

Stone Church provides discussion-based Adult Study classes on most Sundays, from 11 am to noon, in the Fireside Room. There is no Adult Study on August 19 (church picnic)

- Pat Magee, Christian Education

Book Reviews for Good Summer Reading from Our Library

This month, we offer reviews of just three of our many interesting books.

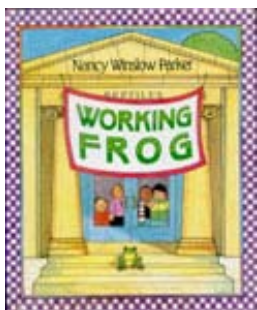
Visit our book cart in the Social Hall, or drop by the Church Library on Sunday after worship, or any time the church office is open during the week. Let us know what kind of books you'd like! - Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

Working Frog by Nancy Winslow Parker (JF PAR)

This is an interesting little book that explains how Winston, a bullfrog, was captured and taken to the zoo's reptile house and eventually became a working frog. It's a good read-aloud

book or book for young readers.

- Reviewed by Sue Evans



From Map to Museum by Joan Anderson (J975.8 AND)

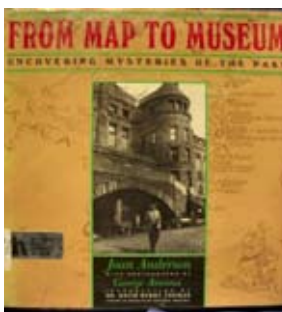
This book is a behind-the-scenes account of a museum collection.

The story starts with Dr. David Thomas, curator of anthropology in New York City, who travels to St. Catherine Island in Georgia

to study the possibility of buried missions.

The reader learns about how and why anthropologists dig and what happens to the items found. Middle-schoolers should be able to read and understand this book, with the help of the glossary that explains certain terms used throughout. (Adults will like this book, too!)

- Reviewed by Sue Evans



A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving (Fic Irv)

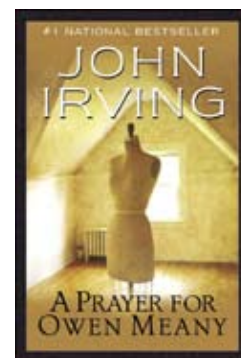
This novel relates the story of the friendship between the narrator, John Wheelwright, and the diminutive

Owen Meany. This is a story about religion and finding God. Owen, the only child of a New Hampshire granite quarrier, believes he is an instrument of God.

The story starts with a bang: Owen kills Johnny's mother with an errant foul ball. From there the story evolves with some fine twists and turns.

The town and the times are vividly recreated, and the characters are well developed. This is an excellent choice to read on long, hot summer days.

- Reviewed by Ruth White



Denise Roy Comes Back to Stone in September



Parent Time: Finding Balance in Your Busy Life

Stress and multi-tasking are taking their toll – on us and on our children. We always seem to be going somewhere in a hurry, but do we know where we are going or why we're in such a rush to get there? In our busy lives of juggling careers, kids, and carpools, it is easy to run on automatic, and miss a sense of real connection to ourselves and to our family.

Author and psychotherapist Denise Roy shares practices and tools that will help us move out of overwhelm and into a place of relaxing into our lives as parents. We will learn how to call upon our own wisdom and humor and understanding of what it is we need and what our children need. We will also learn how to teach these sanity-saving

strategies to our children so that they might be happier and more resilient.

The lecture/discussion will be held on Sunday, September 16, from 11 am to 1 pm, in the Sanctuary. The cost is \$5. Tickets can be purchased in the social hall on Sundays, in the church office, or at the door.

Denise Roy, LMFT, M.Div., is an author, psychotherapist, popular speaker, and mother. Denise speaks to thousands of people each year at schools, churches, and community organizations nationwide on parenting, spirituality, peacemaking and women's issues. She is the author of Momfulness: Mothering with Mindfulness, Compassion, and Grace (Jossey-Bass, 2007) and My Monastery Is a Minivan (Loyola, 2001). She previously led a Parenting Class based on the latter at Stone in April 2006.

Stone Church Choirs: Looking for a Few Good Men & Women! Calling All Singers and Ringers!

If you have ever considered joining Stone's Chancel Choir, this fall would be the perfect time to do it!

Nancy Kromm, Stone's outstanding choir director, would like to invite you to consider joining the choir for the "month of September," when, she says, "We will do relatively easy anthems." This way, you can actually "try out" the choir, without feeling overwhelmed or intimidated.

You would also be encouraged to come to the fall choir retreat (which will be on a Saturday in September).

This is a great opportunity to experience the choir firsthand and to enjoy the camaraderie of this fun group!

Have you ever been curious about trying handbells? Would you like to try ringing without a long-term commitment? Then come and check it out – a music background is desired, but not required.

Middle school youth who read music, high schoolers, and adults are all invited to come and try out the handbells!

We meet Thursday evenings at 7 pm in room 6 (in the basement). Please contact Jean Raby if you would like to come, so we know how many will attend.

Warning: This can be addictive!



The Handbell Choir recently performed for the first time at Stone Church and received stellar reviews! Here they are at their dress rehearsal immediately preceding the service. They repeated their performance at First Pres, downtown, the next week.

Church & World Helps Children in Need and the Environment

The Church & World Committee continues to offer us compassionate and caring ways to help our world, our environment, and our community.

The Greening of Stone Church

This summer we started to learn how Stone Church could reduce our environmental impact and perhaps qualify to be a Green Business in Santa Clara County.



A PG&E representative visited and did an energy audit of our facility. The recently upgraded rooms are fine (except Lincoln House, which needs attic insulation), but there are changes that could be made in the heating and lighting of the original building and in the sup-

plies we purchase for printing, yard care, and cleaning.

The new efficient heater that the Building & Grounds Committee is purchasing will replace two inefficient models and go a long way toward reducing our heating bill and getting us a rebate, as well. Right Lights, a lighting contractor that works in California to upgrade business lighting and issue large rebates, also did a walkthrough downstairs and will issue a proposal for B&G's information soon.

For now, members can remember to turn off room lights (just like your mother said), recycle your bulletins, wash full loads in the dishwasher, and drink tap water rather than bottled.

If you'd like to be a part of a church team to work on the Greening Project, please contact Rhonda Lakatos.

Clothes for Kids! An Act of Faith and Compassion!

This October you will have the opportunity to reach out and directly help children from EHC's emergency family shelter. Up to 40 school-age



children will be driven by Stone Church volunteers to Mervyns in order to shop for winter clothes early

on a Saturday. We will need many volunteers both to help drive and to help shop. Sign-ups will begin in September with more details to follow. Please contact Alice McNelis if you are interested.

- Carrie Moncrief, C&W Moderator, with Rhonda Lakatos and Alice McNelis



Judi Kaiser and Fred Oliver appear to be enjoying the recent Summer Cookout on the patio after worship! Everyone seemed to enjoy the day, which included delicious salads, as well as "carved to order" gourmet sausages.

General Assembly in San Jose, June 2008

He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God? (Micah 6:8, NRSV)

- theme of 218th General Assembly

It's never too early to mark your calendar for upcoming big events. A very big event is coming to San Jose next summer. The 218th meeting of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) will congregate in San Jose, June 21-28, 2008.

This is the first time the Presbytery of San Jose has hosted this event. Church leaders and activists from across the country and around the world will come to San Jose to discuss our church's issues and agendas.

A number of Stone Church members will be providing leadership: Fred Oliver will be the local coordinator for the daily worship services, including music. Marcia Ludwig will be organizing local Bay Area tours. Mel Goertz and Diana Lim will be on COLA (Committee on Local Arrangements), which is responsible for volunteer recruitment and management. Rev. Dr. Bob Bowles, Stone's former pastor, will serve as leader of all local arrangements.

Most meetings are open to everyone, at least to observe, so you can see our church in action. The first

worship service, which sets the tone for the rest of the week, will be held at the Activity Center at San Jose State on Sunday, June 22. You won't want to miss



At the 217th GA (2006), Elder commissioner Diana Lim from San Jose prays before Thursday's closing business session (photo, Joseph Williams)

community with thousands of other Presbyterians, the sounds of a large ensemble choir from many Bay Area churches, and feeling the power of our collective church as we gather together in His name.

So plan your other summer events around this one, and don't be surprised if you're asked to help!

- Fred Oliver

Note: Just prior to GA, there will be a six-week Sunday morning Adult Study series, *An Introduction to the General Assembly*, so Stone members can understand the mechanics of GA, follow key overtures, and enjoy attending the various GA sessions and activities.

- Pat Magee



News from PW

The *dog days of summer* – aren't they wonderful? Just don't get too comfortable in that hammock with your iced tea or lemonade, because we are going to be gearing up for next year's activities.

The big event for us is the annual August Brunch to be held on Saturday, August 25, in the social hall. Our topic this year is presented by Ms. Elizabeth Sholes of IMPACT, the political watchdog of the California Council of Churches. She will be speaking on "Unveiling California Health Care." Senate Bill SB8 and Assembly Bill SB480 deal with this matter. The Governor's Plan for Health Care is also in the offing.

Your friends and neighbors – both men and women – are cordially invited. Your questions will be welcome.

We shall be accepting children's new underwear and your used costume jewelry for the families at Emmaus House in Hollister.

Reservations may be made at the church office (269-1593) or by contacting Hazel James by August 22: reservations for child care must be made two weeks prior to the 25th. A five dollar (\$5) donation is requested.

Reminder: Be sure to keep September 15 open to attend the overview of this year's Bible Study led by the author. The event will be held at the San Francisco Theological Seminary, and carpooling is encouraged.

PW Schedule for August:

Focus Group, 9:30 am, August 6, at Elizabeth Shandera's home

Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am, August 14, Taiwan Restaurant, Lincoln Avenue

Fair Trade coffee and tea will be sold at the church picnic on Sunday, August 19, in History Park.

Knitting Group, 4:30 pm, August 23, Fireside Room

August Brunch, 9:30 to 11:30 am, August 25, Social Hall (program will be first)

Please note there are no circle or book meetings this month.

- Catherine Amos



Correction: In July's *The Stone News*, Ruth White was incorrectly identified as LaVonne Fraboni in the picture, above. *The Stone News* sincerely apologizes for our lapse in identification skills! Ruth is the lovely lady on the right; Fern Swanson was correctly identified on the left.

The Board of Deacons has started its caring ministry for 2007-2008.

Deacon News

Della Smith is the new Moderator of Deacons, and here are the other assignments for

this hard-working group.

- ☛ Mary Jo Blazek, Parent's Day Out Coordinator
- ☛ Mary Breuleux, Greeter/Guestbook Coordinator
- ☛ Mike Breuleux, Nominating Committee Representative
- ☛ Rachel Buckley, Youth Deacon
- ☛ Steve Buckley, Prayer Chain Assistant
- ☛ Don D'Angelo, Vice moderator
- ☛ Andrew Edwards, Young Family Event Coordinator
- ☛ Greg Edwards, Young Family Event Assistant

- ☛ Janice Goertz, Memorials Coordinator
- ☛ Sara Holtzapple, Memorials Assistant
- ☛ Jane Martin, Ripples Assistant
- ☛ Nancy McClaran, Winter Tea Coordinator
- ☛ Pauline Moore, Membership Support
- ☛ Kathleen Oliver, Spring Picnic Coordinator
- ☛ Claire Ribble, Secretary
- ☛ Debbie Roach, Grief Support Liaison
- ☛ Walter Roach, Prayer Chain Coordinator
- ☛ Hilda Salazar, Ripples Coordinator
- ☛ Karen Scott, Flowers
- ☛ Tom Scott, Special Projects
- ☛ Ken Stutz, Visitation
- ☛ Ruth White, Deacon/Elder Retreat

There was no Session meeting in July, but all Elders now have their committee assignments. If you

Session News

are interested in being on any of these committees (except Nominating and Personnel & Administration, whose members are selected in a specific manner), please contact the appropriate Elder.

- Budget & Finance: Mel Goertz, moderator; Ruth McCreath
- Buildings & Grounds: Judi Kaiser, moderator; David Moncrief

Christian Education: Bill Ribble, moderator; Rick James

Church & World: Carrie Giorgianni, moderator; Ann Pierce

Membership & Evangelism: Ellen Springer, moderator; Bill Downes

Nominating: Catherine Amos, moderator; Suzanne Wolf

Personnel & Administration: Jody Meacham, moderator; Bob Lowry

Stewardship: Derk Johnson, moderator; Bea Groppuso

Worship: Deborah Crim, moderator; Donald Foster, Cathy Marshall



Welcome, New Member, Charlotte Dickson!

Charlotte Dickson recently joined Stone Church and wrote this autobiography at the request of The Stone News.

Just eight years ago, I moved to the Villages in San Jose. I had spent twenty-three interesting, fun, and challenging years in a variety of teaching positions in Modesto, including special education of the learning handicapped, regular third and fifth grades, and tutoring reading. From 1966-1972, I had the privilege of serving Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church as its Director of Christian Education. I served the Multnomah United Presbyterian Church in Portland, Oregon, from 1963-1966, in the same capacity.

I am a graduate of Long Beach State College in Physical Education and of San Francisco Theological Seminary in Christian Education, and I earned my credential for teaching the Learning Handicapped at Santa Clara University.

My interests and activities include RVing, playing golf, movies, dinner

and conversations with friends, politics and religion (oh no!), reading stories that delight (*The Mitford Series* by Jan Karon and *The Cat Who ...* books by Lilian Jackson Braun), the newspaper, and nonfiction. I'm currently exploring mythology and finding it to be a fascinating reflection of human behavior.

Several years ago I was open to a new worship experience and through that door came Maureen Ryan, a neighbor and golfer. She couldn't say enough great things about Stone Church, and she invited me to the Taize services during Holy Week. From there, of course, Sunday worship was the next step for me to take. I'd known about Stone Church for many years - even worshipped here a few times in the distant past - so it did not feel like I was coming to an unknown place.

As a new member, I am looking forward to ways of joining the very many volunteers in their ministry to this congregation, to the community and world, and the wider Church.

Lincoln House Landscaping

Just a reminder ... Greg Edwards will be working on his Eagle Scout Service Project at Stone Church on Saturday, August 18, from 9 am to 6 pm, and Sunday, August 19, from 11 am to 6 pm.

Greg will need youth and adult volunteers. Lunch will be provided on both days, and additional food donations would be appreciated.

For questions, please contact Greg or Catherine Edwards.

Mission Team Coffee

The Men's Mission Team will be hosting an informal coffee on August 18, from 3 to 4:30 pm, to discuss the Westminster Woods playground project. We plan to invite the men from other churches in the Presbytery. For more detail, please contact Dave McCreath or Leland Wong.

Remember that the Team has a Zephyr trip in September, the Westminster Woods playground project in October, and our regular trip to the Woods in November.



NOW, it's official! In the traditional Presbyterian ritual of the "handing over of the key," our beloved Marge Palmer formally kicks off the ministry of Ken Henry.



It's Time for the Always Fabulous Stone Church Picnic!

The annual gathering of the Stone Church family at History Park (located at the south end of Kelley Park) for worship, food, and fun will take place on Sunday, August 19.

Worship will start at 10 am and will be immediately followed by a classic summertime picnic. Hamburgers, hot dogs, chicken, and veggie burgers will be provided – hot off the grill. Bring your favorite picnic potluck side dishes and desserts to share.

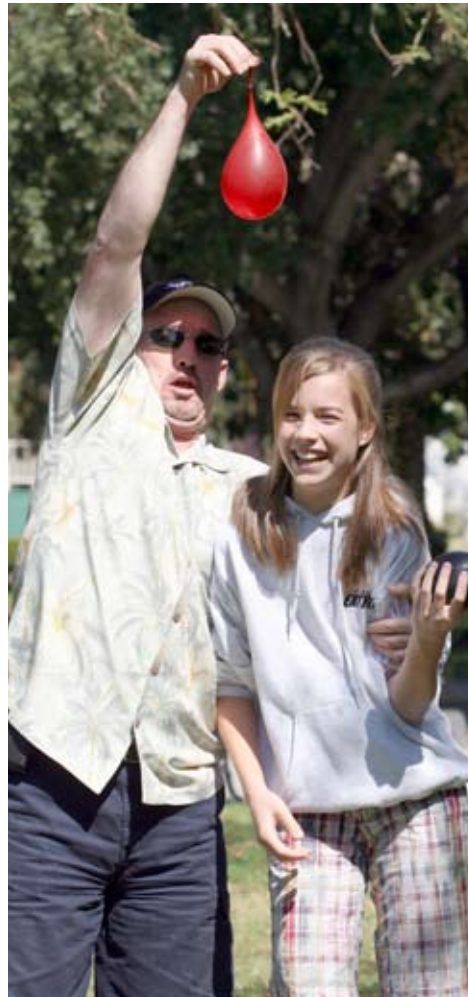
There will be lots of games and activities for kids ... and for adults who like to get in on the action!

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

Sign-up in the social hall the next few Sundays – tell us how many are coming, preference for hamburger, hot dog, chicken, or veggie, and what you are bringing to share.

Here are basic directions to the park from the church (maps will also be available). History Park is on the corner of Senter and Phelan (1650 Senter Road). There is FREE parking in the lot on Phelan behind History Park.

- Go South on Lincoln to Curtner.
- Turn Left (west) on Curtner (which becomes Tully).
- Turn Left (north) on Senter, and continue to Phelan.



Holy Water Balloon Toss – always the hit of the church picnic! (photo from the 2006 picnic)

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Ken Henry with the children on a Sunday morning