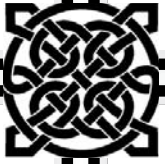


THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

JANUARY 2008



Wishing
you a Happy
New Year!

From the
Henrys

Pastor's Column

GREAT EXPECTATIONS

by The Reverend Doctor Ken Henry

The other night, I went for a walk around the city of Los Gatos. I walked to Vasona Park, where a line of cars backed up on to University Avenue waiting to drive through illuminated Christmas displays in the park. A small train carrying kids and their parents was choo-chooing away, puffing and pulling loads of light-seers while men in parkas directed traffic.

As I walked around the perimeter of this holiday event, keeping the cold at bay, I thought about raised expectations. The Christmas season is fun and beautiful, but also, perhaps, a setup for not

coming close to what we imagine Christmas should be. John the Baptist was disappointed that Jesus wasn't the Messiah he expected. John wanted something more than a vulnerable babe born in Bethlehem, more than a healer of diseases, more than a martyr who died on a cross. Of course, when these twinkling night pictures are put away for the season, the expectations we have for ourselves and others will still be there and yet, having expectations isn't all bad.

As we begin 2008, my prayer is that we would become aware of our expectations. Certainly, there will be times in this coming year when a person or event will exceed our expectations, but then once in a while, we will need to remind ourselves that things as well as people are always changing.

I love this prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr:

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.

This prayer is about expectations.

On another note, I want to thank you for making my first six months at Stone Church such a wonderful experience. When I came as your pastor back in late June, I wasn't sure what to expect; nevertheless, your hospitality and compassion have restored my faith in the value of a spiritually nurturing community. Indeed, I'm learning that the Stone Church of Willow Glen is a place that cares for people both inside and outside its beautiful stone walls.

(continued on page 6)

Adult Study: Learn Something New Every Week

A wonderful opportunity awaits you each Sunday - a full hour of enriching and fascinating Adult Study after Worship - and now an evening class, too.

There will be no morning class on Feb. 3 due to the Congregational Meeting.

Jan. 6, 13: Old Stone to New Building: The History of Stone Church

Led by Alice Thorn, Stone's official historian, the first session will cover the beginnings of the church, in the context of happenings in San Jose and in the Presbytery of San Jose, including why we don't have a parking lot and other great questions. The second session will address the life that has gone on within these walls, including Stone's place as an activist church.

January 20: Sharing Stories about Mission and Social Justice

Led by Rev. Dr. Ken Henry, come and share your stories of building houses, feeding the poor, and working in places of need around the globe.

January 27; February 10, 17: So You Want to Preach on Sunday?

Have you ever thought about preaching or writing a sermon for Sunday

morning? In this 3-week series, Rev. Dr. Ken Henry will show you how to study the Old and New Testaments in order to prepare and preach sermons. Ken will present a variety of contemporary approaches and models on the art and craft of sermon writing.

Of course, if you have a wealth of experience in preaching, please consider coming to share your wisdom with others. Who knows? You might even learn something new in the field of homiletics and hermeneutics.

Feb. 24, Mar. 2, 9, 16: Economics & Ecology: The Challenge of the 21st Cent.

The ever-increasing world population, together with the need to raise the poor to a decent standard of living, is severely impacting food, water and energy resources. Increased use of energy generated by fossil fuels is causing global climate changes. If it's even possible, a solution will require strong action on the part of individuals, communities, corporations, and, in particular, nations. Pat Magee will lead this exploration of the challenges and needed responses.

Jan. 6 - Mar. 2, Sunday Evening, 7-9pm, *The Gospel According to Us*

On Sunday evenings, Walter Hudson will lead a class on *The Gospel According to Us*. Walter provides this synopsis:

Author Duncan Holcomb invites us to rethink our comfortable assumptions about Jesus and being a modern Christian. In a personal foreword, he draws us - as he himself was drawn - into the many obstacles, real and imagined, preventing us from encountering Jesus through the biblical story. He follows with eight essays, startling in their wit and insight, and intentionally shocking to reconnect us with the electrifying and illuminating power of Jesus as God's Word. He also compares the contradictions and social camouflage of our pleasant, color-between-the-lines Christianity to Jesus' subversive message, while giving a nifty beating to both popular piety and skeptical scholarship. Walter adds that he offers this book with his highest recommendation, but also with this warning: you will find in the book as much consternation as laughter.

Church Library: Read a Good Book to Learn and Grow in 2008

First Things First ... Letting Go ... Thank You ... Hope ... Wisdom ...

The book titles alone convey an uplifting New Year's message - imagine how helpful the insides of the books will be!

This is a good time to say *Thank You* to all who give materials or time or other support to our library.

Please note that because of the January holiday, our workdays this month will be on the 2nd and 3rd Tuesdays.

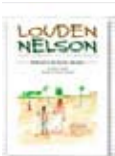
- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

Here are new books for younger folks:



Thank You, Mr. Falker by Patricia Polacco (J Pol)

Mice: A Complete Pet Owner's Manual by Horst Bielfeld (YA 636 Bie), from Betsy Williams



Louden Nelson: From Slavery to Philanthropy by Franklin Marshall (Biog J NELSON)

Here are new books on our adult side:

The Little Book of Letting Go: Cleanse Your Mind, Lift Your Spirit, Replenish Your Soul by Hugh Prather (158 Pra)

First Things First: To Live, to Love, to Learn, to Leave a Legacy by Stephen Covey (158.1 Cov)

Soul Making: The Desert Way of Spirituality by Alan Jones (233 Jon)

Rocks of Ages: Science & Religion in the Fullness of Life by Stephen Gould (291.1 Gou), given by Betty Moran

Journey of Hope by Karin Ronnow (371 Ron), a report of Greg Mortenson's work in Pakistan and Afghanistan



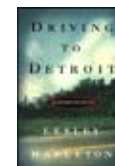
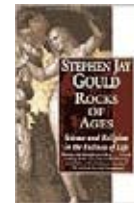
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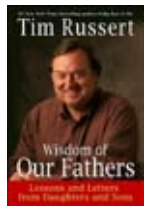


Driving to Detroit: An Automotive Odyssey by Lesley Hazleton (917 Haz)

New to our special sections: *Wisdom of Our Fathers: Lessons and Letters from Daughters and Sons* by Tim Russert (Family 306.8 Rus)

Called Out With: Stories of Solidarity in Support of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual & Transgendered Persons, ed. by folks including the late Norm Pott (Soc Iss - S 241 Tho)

The Ageless Spirit: Reflections on Living Life to the Fullest in Our Later Years, ed. by Phillip Berman (Spec Needs - A 305 Ber)



Rosaleen's Column

WORSHIP WITH YOUR CHILD

by *Rosaleen Zisch, Interim
Children's Ministry Coordinator*

This year, the *Children's Committee* of the Christian Education committee has made many changes concerning church school. One change is that the children remain in Worship through the choir's anthem and have a children's sermon every Sunday, prior to leaving for church school. This is intended to enhance their experience and understanding of Worship.

Because the church school story, music and supporting activities take a certain amount of time, parents are asked to wait until 10:50 am to pick up their children.

And since parents are now in Worship for a longer period of time with their children, here are a few ideas to help children and parents get the most out of Worship together:

- ☛ In the Hymnal, have your child find the pages of the hymns and bookmark them.
- ☛ Ask your child about the banners or anything else in the sanctuary.

- ☛ Have your child number the order of events in the bulletin. (It is the same every week.)
- ☛ Look at the pew Bible. Are we reading from the Old Testament? New Testament? (Hint: First five books of the Bible are the Torah or Pentateuch, very middle of the Bible is the end of Psalms or beginning of Isaiah. Last third of the Bible is the New Testament, whose first four books are the Gospels.)
- ☛ The children's clipboard box contains an ARCH Bible storybook. If your child likes the story, he or she is welcome to take it home and return it later. There are others in a stack in the narthex, with different thematic activity sheets each week.
- ☛ Remember that children can simultaneously listen and draw or color; in fact, it helps some of them concentrate better.
- ☛ If your child is learning to read or is already a reader, show him or her how to follow the lines of a hymn. Don't worry about the tune. Most of us can't read the music or carry a tune. Remember

God loves a joyful singer. If you actually sing well, it is a blessing for the person next to you.

- ☛ Pews are for sitting. However, sometimes it is difficult for little ones to see. Let them stand on the pew, but please hold on to them as accidents can happen.
- ☛ As a sign of respect, ask your child not to run in the sanctuary. However, a skip or fast walk can occasionally be appropriate, especially when a child is enthusiastically going up to hear the children's sermon.
- ☛ At the Baptism of a child, the entire congregation pledges to help raise that child to be a follower of Christ. The congregation is here to support you, so don't be afraid to ask another church member to sit with your child during Worship. Sometimes another adult who extends a loving presence to a child will be just what you need that day.

Children follow our lead. If Worship is important to us, it will be important to them. Their behavior and participation is a reflection of all of us.

Nancy's Column

WITH A VOICE OF SINGING

by *Nancy Wait-Kromm
Director of Music Ministry*

Happy New Year to everyone! Our first anthem this year, *With a Voice of Singing*, says:

*With a voice of singing, declare ye this,
and let it be heard: Alleluja!*

Here is a good New Year's resolution for you - to resolve to practice your singing every day, and if you aren't already in the choir, to dust off your singing voice and get it into the choir!

Singing is a health-giving, life-promoting activity. You can enjoy singing with others, or you can just sing alone. You can sing the top 40 hits, or you can sing Pavarotti's arias. Who cares? Just take in a big breath and sing away.



The Chancel Choir, directed by Nancy Wait-Kromm

Now if you want to join all those happy folks up in the choir loft every week, forgo the Wednesday night TV shows and swing on down to Stone around 7 pm for a couple of hours of energetic and spiritually uplifting music. We are planning lots of great anthems for the rest of the church year

and you are welcome to join us.

But whether you join the choir, or just sing boldly from the pews on Sunday, I invite you ...

*With a voice of singing, declare ye
this and let it be heard: Alleluja!*

Church & World Truly Makes a Difference in the Lives of Others

The Church & World committee had a wonderful time at our December meeting making end-of-the-year donations to many organizations that needed help. We were able to make these donations because there were some unused funds in our budget.

Among these donations were \$750 to Habitat for Humanity, \$750 to the Bill Wilson Center, \$625 to the Second Harvest Food Bank, \$600 to the South Bay Sanctuary (for school and medical supplies in El Salvador), \$250 to Sacred Heart Community Service (for the infant formula program) and \$100 for Books for the Barrios (a program in the Philippines that provides schoolchildren with reading books).

Friends Outside a Great Success

Cathy Marshall and Maureen Chandler Nissen reported that the *Friends Outside* program was a great success. The congregational response in donations of food, gifts, and money was extremely enthusiastic. A single mother and her four sons will have a brighter Christmas because of this wonderful program.



Food for Sacred Heart

Fred Groppuso, aka Stone's *Dumpster Diver*, reported that we have donated over 1100 pounds of food items to Sacred Heart Community Service. Please continue to bring non-perishable food items to the Narthex each Communion Sunday to support this program.



Recycling for Heifer

You may not be aware that Fred also has a recycling program that has contributed \$666.50 to Heifer Project since May 2005. We are looking at ways to expand this program; watch for updates in the bulletin.

Safely Recycle Tapes For Good

Media shelves too crowded with new Christmas gifts? Clean out your collection and bring old videotapes to Stone Church on Sunday, January 13, for environmentally beneficial recycling. If you find one on display that you'd like, they'll be available for re-use for a donation of 25 cents. The remaining tapes will be mailed to Alternative Community Training, a workshop for people with disabilities in Missouri. The employees, who earn a fair wage, clean, strip and repackage the tapes to be sold as blanks. Questions? Ask a member of Church & World committee.



El Salvador Delegation

Stone Church's contingent for the El Salvador Delegation, leaving Feb. 16, is picking up steam, digging out passports, getting their medical preparations, and gathering supplies! Five from Stone are signed-up and ticketed: Maureen Ryan, Chris Nilson, Suzanne Wolf, Rachel Buckley and Dale Bracey. Another one or two are undecided.

Joining with seven others from South Bay churches, they will be 2008's delegation to El Salvador and especially to a village in the Lower Lempa river area where hardy people have carved

out a community from the jungle and are supporting themselves by raising cattle and growing fresh produce.

Some of the Men's Mission Team are looking into gathering tools that the Delegation will take to supply Salvadorans the basics for constructing low-smoke cooking stoves (to counteract the terrible air pollution from everyone cooking on open pit fires!).

Do you have something to send with them? They would like to take extra suitcases filled with children's school supplies, children's books in Spanish or bilingual, and a few toys in good condition. If you have ideas contact Dale Bracey or Maureen Ryan.

Future Projects - Join Us!

Church & World is made up of lots of dedicated people who are always looking for new opportunities to serve the community. We are planning many new projects for 2008 including sponsorship of an African refugee family, formation of mission clusters, and expanding our recycling projects.

Pat Plant, from San Jose Presbytery, will be coming to the January meeting to talk about her *Making the World a Better Place* program. We welcome your thoughts and input and would love to have you join us at our meetings on the 1st Tuesday night of each month at 7:30 pm.

- Carrie Giorgianni, C&W Moderator, with Rhonda Lakatos & Dale Bracey



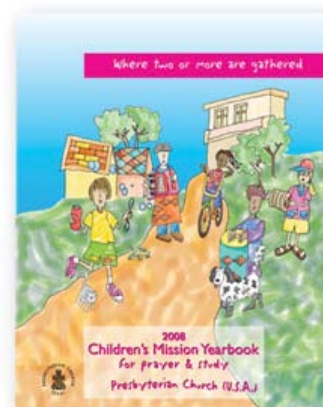
Children's Mission Yearbook 2008 for Prayer and Study

On January 6, families will receive copies of a special publication from the Presbyterian Church. It is nothing like the conventional *Mission Yearbook* that Church leaders have been getting for years. This one is very special!

We hope that it will be a fun refer-

ence book that educates, inspires and promotes understanding of our church's work throughout the world. This is the fifth year it has been published, and it is a wonderful resource to further our relationships with God.

- Rosaleen Zisch



The New Year has once again been rung in with all the joys and expectations that always follow.

News from PW



Presbyterian Women look back at recent activities with thanks to all who made them such successes. Over one hundred toys were given to Sacred Heart Community Service for their clients. The Thank Offering was

larger than in the past, which means that more deserving groups who promote the well being of women around the world can be funded.

Leading off 2008 on Sunday, January 6, from 2 to 4 pm, Stone Church will host Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of San Jose for their annual Epiphany Tea. The theme this year is *Connections ... with Mystery* and will include a Taizé service. We hope to see many of you in attendance.

Our ongoing project of collecting Campbell Soup labels and Box Tops for

Education is doing well; the schools need all the support that we can provide. (For those who do not know, the box for these is to be found every Sunday on the library cart in the Social Hall.)

Here is the January PW Schedule:

Focus Group, 9:30 am, Tuesday, January 8, Elizabeth Shandera's home.

Amethyst Circle, 1 pm, Wednesday, January 2, Church Library

Emerald Circle, 9:30 am, Thursday, January 3, Ruth White's home

Sapphire Circle, 7:30 pm, Monday, January 14, Joyce Summers' home

Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am, Tuesday, January 8, Taiwan Restaurant, Lincoln Ave.

Book Group I, 1 pm, Monday, January 7, Liz Shandera's home, reading *Three Cups of Tea*, by Mortenson and Relin.

Book Group II, 2:30 pm, Monday, January 21, Marcia Ludwig's home, reading *The Distant Land of My Father*, by Bo Caldwell

Prayer Shawl Group, 4 pm, Thursday, January 24 (knitting) in the Fireside Room. Janice Goertz emphasizes that this activity is NOT gender specific.



Jan Keifer distributing PW gift baskets featuring fairly traded coffee, tea and chocolate.

Bible Study, 9:30 am, Thursday, January 24, Church Library, led by Rev. Marge Palmer. - Catherine Amos



Many thanks to the House-Nelson family, Peter, Kerry, and Steve, for our new sign!

The Men's Book Group recently made its reading selections for winter and spring of 2008. All men of the congregation are welcome to attend any of the sessions, which meet on the third Monday of the month.

News from Men's Groups

***The World Without Us*, by Howard Weisman, January 21, at the home of Bill Lakatos**

From The New Yorker - Teasing out the consequences of a simple thought experiment - what would happen if the human species were suddenly extinguished - Weisman has written a sort of pop-science ghost story, in which the whole earth is the haunted house.

***Five Minds for the Future*, by Howard Gardner, February 18, at the home of Bill Ribble**

From Publishers Weekly - Psychologist, author and Harvard professor Gardner has put together a

thought-provoking, visionary attempt to delineate the kinds of mental abilities (*minds*) that will be critical to success in a 21st century landscape of accelerating change and information overload.

***Life on the Mississippi*, by Mark Twain, March 17, at the home of Bruce Raby**

The popular 19th-century humorist offers lively recollections, ranging from his salad days as a novice steamboat pilot on one of the world's greatest rivers, to views from the passenger deck in the twilight of the river culture's heyday.

***The Left Hand of God*, by Michael Lerner, April 21, at the home of Steve Buckley**

From Publishers Weekly - Named one of Utne's 100 American Visionaries, Rabbi Lerner, editor of *Tikkun* magazine, delivers an ambitious proposal called a *Spiritual Covenant with America*.

On May 19, books will be selected for the summer; there is no host designated yet. - David McCreath

Session Beat

The Session had the joy, on Dec. 11, of welcoming nine new members to Stone Church: Carole Brandt, Michelle Chandler, Nora Kelly, Kaye Moore, Charlotte Pizzo, Don Skipwith, Brian Sailor, Julie Sailor and Marsha Wadley. They will be welcomed publicly in worship in January 2008.

Session also dealt with end-of-year changes in membership rolls, including transferring Joyce Connelly's membership to First Presbyterian Church, Grapevine, TX.

The date for the annual Congregational Meeting was set to Feb. 3.

Session nominated Ruth McCreath as a candidate for Commissioner to the General Assembly meeting in San Jose in June 2008. The Presbytery of San Jose will vote for two Elders and two Ministers as Commissioners, as well as a Youth Advisory Delegate, at its January 2008 meeting.

Session was delighted to approve terms of employment for Rosaleen Zisch as half-time interim Children's Ministry Coordinator (a job she's shared this fall with fellow volunteers Janice Goertz, Claudia Hamm and Kate Wheatley). The Christian Education Committee is continuing to search for a permanent replacement. Session expressed thanks to these

women for their creative work, and Bill Ribble noted that church school attendance is up.

Buildings & Grounds committee is discontinuing the groundskeeping service, since it is expensive and ineffective. They will be asking for volunteers to do mowing and cleanup, noting that Santa Teresa Hills Pres. Church, San Jose, calls their volunteers the *holy mowers*.

Session accepted with great regret, but with understanding, the resignations of Ellen Springer and Bill Downes from Session and from Membership & Evangelism committee, each for personal reasons.

- Alice Thorn, Clerk of Session

Ray McGinnis' Sacred Poetry Workshop

Author Ray McGinnis comes to Stone Church on Saturday, Jan. 19, to lead a workshop modeled on his book, *Writing the Sacred: A Psalm-Inspired Path to Appreciating and Writing Sacred Poetry*.

Participants will be vividly connected with the original psalm writers, the intent and meaning of the historical psalms and the poetic techniques found in the psalms. Through sensory and poetic exercises, each person will be invited to write new sacred poetry. Contemporary poetry from a variety of spiritual paths will also be offered to inspire and encourage new writing.



Ray McGinnis resides in Vancouver, Canada, and is a poet, prayer writer and journal keeper. Since 1999, he has taught over 6000 people in writing workshops in nine provinces in Canada and ten states in the US. He is a member of the Canadian Memorial United Church and the Centre for Peace.

The workshop runs from 9 to 11:30 am in the Fireside Room. Tickets are on sale after worship on Sunday mornings. A donation of \$10 is suggested.

- Pat Magee

Henrietta Perdue Lecture

Dr. Barbara Rossing will be Stone's next Henrietta Perdue lecturer the weekend of Feb. 22-23.



In lectures adapted from her book, *The Rapture Exposed*, Dr. Rossing offers clear, engaging, and theologically insightful critiques of the use of Scripture in the *Left Behind* series and the dispensationalist theology that lies behind

the story line. Rossing, who teaches at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, has written extensively on the Revelation to John and Christian eschatology. She skillfully exposes the theological fiction on which the whole concept of the Rapture is based, the ethic of despair and escapism it fosters, and the extreme political agenda espoused by its main proponents.

Suggested donation: \$10 for the Friday night lecture, \$15 for the Saturday two-lecture series, or \$20 for both programs.

- Pat Magee

Living on the Fault Line

In January, Rev. Dr. Ken Henry will be preaching on *Living on the Fault Line: A Three-Part Sermon Series on Earth-Shaking Incidents in The Old and New Testaments*.

Here is the lectionary for each of these Sundays, with the Sermon texts in *italics*.

January 13:

Haggai 1:15b-2:9
1 Kings 19:1-12

January 20

Race Relations Sunday and
New Member Sunday
Psalm 46

Acts 16:25-34 (Paul & Silas released from prison after earthquake)

January 27:

Psalm 18:1-7
Mark 13:1-13

Pastor's Column

(continued from page 1)

A few special events are coming up in January. On Jan. 20, during the Worship service, we will welcome several new members to Stone. We might even think about wearing our name tags that Sunday and making a special effort to introduce ourselves to these folks.

On Jan. 27, Feb. 10 and 17, I will be teaching a class entitled: *So You Want to Preach on Sunday?* This will be a practical three-part series on how to prepare and deliver sermons. If you've ever been tempted to preach or want to brush up on current trends in homiletics, please join me in the Fireside Room at 11:15 am those Sundays.

Lastly, the annual Congregational Meeting is slated for February 3, and yes, we know it's Super Bowl Sunday.

May God bless you in the coming year.

Courage and Grace,
Ken

Michael and Kate Wheatley recently provided beautiful music for the children's Worship time.



We're always up to something at Stone Church!



Members of the choir are always ready to perform on command! Clockwise, from left: John Leih, Jim Hagan, Lyn Johnson, Laraine Pitcher



Has there ever, or will there ever be, a better Santa Claus?! (photo courtesy of History San Jose)



Gary and Nancy Weiss at our friendly Coffee Time fellowship



Our wonderful brass choir! From left, Rod Thorn, Miriam Rowan, Don D'Angelo, Fred Oliver

Upcoming Events in 2008

- ☛ High School Ski Trip
January 4 - 6, Zephyr Point
- ☛ PW in the Presbytery of San Jose Epiphany Tea
January 6, 2 to 4 pm, Social Hall
- ☛ All-Church Workday
January 12, 9 am to 3 pm
- ☛ Men's Flying Group, Hiller Museum/Half Moon Bay
January 12, 9 am to 3 pm
- ☛ Ray McGinnis "Writing the Sacred" Workshop
January 19, 9:30 am to noon, Fireside Room
- ☛ Stone Church Family Ski Trip
January 25 - 27, Zephyr Point
- ☛ Henrietta Perdue Lecture: Dr. Barbara Rossing
February 22 - 23, Social Hall, Sanctuary
- ☛ Women's Retreat, St. Francis Retreat Center
March 7 - 9, San Juan Bautista
- ☛ General Assembly, PCUSA, Meets in San Jose
June 21 - 28



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Do justice Love kindness

Walk humbly with your God

218th GENERAL ASSEMBLY (2008)

Be sure to mark your calendar! You don't want to miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity!

News from Westminster Woods

Two upcoming Women's Retreats:
January 25 - 27: A Breath of Fresh Air: Health, Healing, & Sabbath
February 1 - 3: Puah & Company: Empowering Women to Thrive

Attention college students: "The Woods" is hiring 70 college students to run their summer camps.

For more information, please see www.westminsterwoods.org

Deacons' Senior Tea

The Deacons will host their annual Senior Tea on Sunday January 13, 2008, from 2 to 5 pm in the Social Hall.



Unlike some restaurant chains, there is no age assigned to Senior, so if you are interested in an afternoon of music, food, fun and fellowship, RSVP to Nancy McClaran by January 4, and let her know if you need transportation.

Crab Feed

Come one, come all, to the annual Crab Feed!



Date: Saturday, February 2, 2008
Time: 6 to 9 pm

Reason: To support the Men's Mission Team
Raffle Prizes will be offered.

Cost: (subject to change):
\$20 for Adults; \$5 for ages 13 to adult;
12 and under eat free
Event is limited to the first 100 sign-ups.