

THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

JULY 2008



Some of Stone's Recent Graduates On Graduation Sunday, June 8, After Worship, Get Together on the Church Patio - Congrats!

GOOD NEWS ON GRADUATION SUNDAY

by Rev. Dr. Ken Henry

On Graduation Sunday, June 8, those in worship discovered that we have some special young adults who have grown up at Stone. We also have some great leaders and teachers. It was a time to give thanks for nursery attendants, church school volunteers, library workers and youth advisors. It was a time to remember our baptismal vows. It was a time to affirm that, at whatever age, we are all on a spiritual journey. Indeed, this journey may carry us to places we never dreamed of going or to face challenges unimaginable. Nevertheless, wherever God sends us, such times in worship, I believe,

rekindle our heartfelt connection with those who have stood by us through thick and thin - namely, our church family.

The following quotes have been gleaned from graduating senior sermons by Gordon Meacham, Rachel Buckley, and Emily Mertens.

... I don't know what I want to be when I grow up, assuming that I do at some point. Maybe I will be a lawyer. Maybe I will be a cartoonist. Maybe I'll be an astronaut, or a policeman, or, God forbid, president. I think it's still too early to decide exactly what I want to end up doing ... All I know about the future is that I'm going to college and that I'm going to major in something I may not pursue as an occupation, but at least it will be a useful degree with good job security ... How exactly has the church influ-

enced me in what I want to do? Well, maybe [some day] I'll defend the helpless in court, or make someone laugh when they're sad, or design homes for the needy ... The future looks hazy right now; I can't exactly get a bead on what it holds, but it looks pretty darn bright nonetheless.

- Gordon Meacham

Through our leaders, or teachers, as someone once said, I was able to discover my interest in community service. I was wary to go on my first mission trip freshmen year because I had no idea how to use tools, but I quickly learned under the great leadership of Lawrence Summers, Kate Wheatley and my driving buddy Anne Storer, who showed me how to be quite handy with a hammer. I found a connection with the people we worked with, and of course the other kids on the trip ...

(continued on page 3)

Adult Study Provides Summer Series on "Reclaiming the World"

This summer, Adult Study consists of a series of drop-in classes with the theme, *Reclaiming the World*, using a newly published *Living the Questions* DVD. Each session is independent and self-contained.

Please note there are no classes on July 6, the 4th of July holiday weekend, or August 17, the Church Picnic.

July 13: The Prophetic Jesus

Jesus was a troublemaker. He said and did things that upset agents of the political and religious domination systems that oppressed the weak and downtrodden. In this way, Jesus stood firmly in the tradition of the prophets of Hebrew Scripture: those who offered a clear and challenging *alternative* script to the status quo.

July 20: Evil, Suffering and a God of Love

If God is all-powerful, all-loving, and all-good, how do you explain and

respond to the existence of so much suffering and evil in the world?

July 27: The Myth of Redemptive Violence

The most potent religion in Western culture is not Christianity, but a belief in the redemptive power of violence. Although Jesus inaugurated a new order based on partnership, equality, compassion and non-violence, his example and teachings have been eclipsed by an emphasis on a human unworthiness that demands and defends the need for Jesus' violent, suffering, atoning death.

August 3: Practicing Resurrection

While much has been made of Jesus' literal and physical resurrection being the core historical event of Christianity, the Biblical texts themselves present conflicting evidence. For many today, the resuscitation of Jesus' body is less important than the idea of resurrection

as a credible and meaningful principle for living.

August 10: Debunking the Rapture

Failing to understand the message of hope offered in the Book of Revelation, many Christians have been misled by 19th century doomsayers and modern-day apocalyptic preachers who proclaim their vengeful god's impending extermination of the apostate masses. Just what part of *love your enemies* doesn't their god understand?

August 24: Reclaiming the World

While human beings have been gifted with a beautiful and complex world in which to live, its systems and resources are being stressed by our behaviors, lifestyles, and arrogance. Care for the environment is not only deeply Biblical and practical, but increasingly critical - for both the present spiritual life and for our collective future.

- Pat Magee, Adult Education

New Library Books on Olympians, Praying in Color, Recycling

New insights await you in the Stone Church Library.

Come by after Worship or any time the Church Office is open.

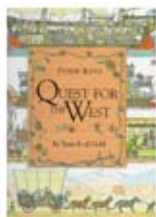
- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

New books for younger members:



The Frog and Toad Treasury (an I CAN READ Book) by Arnold Lobel (J Lob)

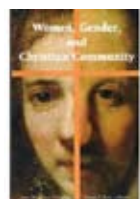
Quest for the West: In Search of Gold by Peter Kent (J 973.6 Ken)



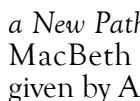
The Story of U.S. Olympians (Cornerstones of Freedom) by Zachary Kent (YA 973 Ken)

Additions to our adult side:

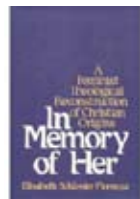
A World Waiting to Be Born by M. Scott Peck (174 Pec)



Women, Gender, and Christian Community ed. by Jane Douglass (230 Dou)



Praying in Color: Drawing a New Path to God by Sybil MacBeth (248.3 Mac), given by Ann Pierce

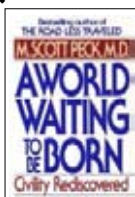


In Memory of Her: A Feminist Theological Reconstruction of Christian Origins by Elisabeth Schussler Fiorenza (270.1 Fio), given by Rebecca Kuiken

The Luminous Web: Essays on Science and Religion by Barbara Brown Taylor (291.1 Tay)



Coming Up for Air: How to Build a Balanced Life in a Workaholic World by Beth Sawi (640 Saw), given by Rebecca Kuiken

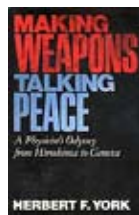


New to our special sections:

How to Make the World a Better Place: A Beginner's Guide compiled by Pat Plant of our Presbytery (Soc Iss 261.8 Pla). Includes many local folks such as Lyn Johnson, Dale Bracey, John Leih, Emily Chatfield, Rhonda Lakatos, Linda Hagan and Pat Magee.



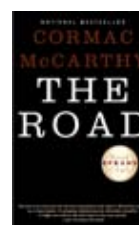
Making Weapons Talking Peace: A Physician's Odyssey by Herbert York (Biog YORK)



Messages to the World: The Statements of Osama bin Laden ed. by Bruce Lawrence (Soc Iss-Mideast 956 Law)



The Road by Cormac McCarthy (Fic McC), given by Colleen Blackburn



Re/Uses: 2,133 Ways to Recycle and Reuse by Carolyn Jabs (Ecol 640 Jab)



COMING FULL CIRCLE

by *Mary Jo Blazek,*
Children's Ministry
Coordinator

I am very happy and blessed to be chosen as the new *Children's Ministry Coordinator*. I am new to the position, but not new to the church.

Fifteen years ago, my then seven-year-old daughter began attending Church School at Stone with a neighborhood friend. One Sunday, close to Christmas, she brought home a note requesting adults to help in making gingerbread houses. Help! Help! I was the queen of help. The next Sunday, I was ready with my spatula in hand. What I thought was going to be a short time with frosting up to my elbows became a love affair with a congregation of

Presbyterians. I stayed to help with the Church School the rest of that school year and then continued to assist in Vacation Church School that summer. I went on to join the church. My youngest daughter was baptized at Stone, and my oldest daughter served as the nursery coordinator for seven years. When my dear brother Tommy sadly passed away, I suggested to my family that we hold his service at Stone. We truly felt the loving arms of the entire congregation wrap around us all.

My goal while serving in this position is to make sure all who walk through the doors of Stone Church feel loved, wanted and valued as my daughters and I did fifteen years ago. God truly has plans for us all. I am happy mine made a full circle.

God Bless,
Mary Jo



One of our wonderful young people at Stone Church recently helped to clean up after Stone hosted a dinner for the National Middle Eastern Presbyterian Caucus during General Assembly week.

GOOD NEWS ON GRADUATION SUNDAY

by *Rev. Dr. Ken Henry*

(continued from page 1)

... I know I speak for everyone who is graduating and who has graduated when I say how empty Sunday nights will feel when I can't go to youth group from 7 to 9 pm and eat Mary Alice's snickerdoodle cookies while she asks us about our week ... Thank you [all] for being such great mentors and giving me a place and a group of people who I can always come home to.

- Rachel Buckley

Stone Church is more than just a place to find God. It is more than the hordes of people chatting in the social hall. It is more than the smiling faces lining up to go worship together. To me, Stone Church is more than just a church family. The community is the backbone to my faith, the people are my foundation of hope, and the youth group my friends through and through ... Giving

this reflection is an opportunity I am blessed to have. How many people get the chance to look out into a room full of the people who have supported them through every age and phase of their life and say "thank you"? Throughout my journey in faith, I have been blessed with the community surrounding Stone Church. From Sunday School to youth group, deacons to the pastor nominating committee, acquaintances to a group of women I now call my aunts, everyone I have met and worked with have freely offered me their light. The light of insight, the light of hope, the light of compassion, the light of destiny, the light of justice, the light of community, the light of love. Through all those individual lights, my heart has been set on fire.

- Emily Mertens

Dr. Henry also read the poem at right during the Graduation Sunday Worship Service.

Sunrise (2008)

I saw the sunrise today
It reminded me of the
birth of a child
who like the sun
would be here for but awhile
as it ascended in the skies above
it brought thoughts of my childhood
and those I love
and as the sun peaked
in its daily flight
it made me aware of
the joys of life
and as it traveled its
westward way
it assured me advancing
years are of no dismay
and as it descends into the
golden west
this child, like the sun,
will welcome God's rest.
now the sun is beyond the sea
leaving only its rays for me.
and as darkness settles in
and night enfolds
it's like the journey of life
has now been told.

- Robert W. James,
Stone Church, Elder

Stone Works Hangs Anti-Torture Banner; Seeks Car for Tony Muiruri

The Stone Works committee keeps working on a mission of love and compassion both locally and globally.

“Torture is Wrong” Banner

The ugly black banner hanging on the Lincoln Avenue wall of Stone Church is a poignant reminder that *Torture is Wrong*. To the neighborhood and Stone members walking by, it can encourage talk about the continuing shame of torture as government policy, as well as the role of the church to speak out on basic moral issues.

When our government still officially allows the CIA to continue its program for coercively questioning terrorists, so-called “enhanced interrogation techniques,” we believe that people of all faiths have to witness their opposition. Torture is not only inimical to the Christian faith, it is contrary to the compact of laws and ideals of our great nation. Two weeks

ago the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that, “The laws and the Constitution are designed to survive, and remain in force, in extraordinary times. Liberty and security can be reconciled; and in our system they are reconciled within the framework of the law.” Eventually this will be applied to stop the use of interrogation methods that are prohibited under international law. Until then, we ask ourselves and fellow citizens, shall we opt “To live by faith, or faithless fear?”

This stark choice is voiced by our youth when they question, “Who would Jesus torture?”

Tony Muiruri Needs Your Help

Last year we introduced you to Tony Muiruri, a man from Kenya who has worshiped with us a number of times. He has received asylum in the US. Tony recently talked to Stone Works, giving an update on his situation.



Tony is sharing a 1-bedroom apartment in West San Jose with another refugee and has applied for a green card. He has filed papers for his family (wife, Margaret, and three children aged 13-19, who we have shown here pictured above) to join him and will know their status in the next few months. His family is very vulnerable to attack because of post-election violence in Kenya; recent looting and arson have destroyed half of the family’s financial base.

For the last 18 months, Tony has worked at Fry’s Electronics, but he is seeking a better paying job. He has successfully completed networking core courses at SJCC, has received 4 certifications and is studying for 2 more. He also has a university degree in Information Systems & Technology.

Changing jobs would likely necessitate a car. Stone Works is asking the Stone Church community if anyone has a reliable car they could donate for Tony, and if anyone could help him find an entry-level job in computer networking or hardware or software support. If you can help or have questions, contact Doug or Sue Williams.

- Dale Bracey and Stone Works
Moderator Carrie Giorgianni



Maureen Ryan, Barbara Bracey and others observing the “Torture is Wrong” banner

Bridge, anyone?

Don Skipwith and Martha Duke are starting to form a bridge group. If you are interested, please contact Don.

Joan Helms’ son Steve gave her a belated 80th birthday present. It consisted of a ride from her home to downtown Los Gatos for dinner, a quick stop at the Concert in the Park, and about a 30-mile ride around the perimeter of the old quicksilver area south of Almaden. Steve runs there almost every day and wanted to show Joan part of where he runs. And they have a date for her 81st birthday next year!



New Pictorial Directory

Stone Church will produce a new pictorial directory this year. For the first time, you can sign-up online, in addition to at the church, for your photo shoot.

Pictures will be taken August 29 and 30 and September 12 and 13.

To sign-up in person, starting July 27, and each Sunday thereafter through August, look for the sign-up table in the Social Hall after Worship.

To sign-up online, go to www.signup.olanmills.com and type in Stone's phone number. In addition to the standard information needed for a photo shoot time, you must provide an email address. You will receive an immediate confirmation of your appointment, and three days prior, you will receive an email reminder.

Photos should be available in time to use as Christmas gifts. Please note there is no obligation to purchase any photos. Everyone, whether or not they have pictures taken, will receive a directory (one per address). The more Stone members who have their picture taken, the more color pages of church activities we are allotted for the directory.

If you have problems signing up online, have questions about the directory, or could serve on the ad hoc directory committee, contact Pat Magee for assistance.

Parades! Fireworks! Picnics! Bar-B-Q's! Block Parties! Patriotic music! All these things come to mind as we celebrate our nation's birthday on

July 4th. Drive carefully (it is a three-day weekend) and worship wherever you are.

Stone Church did itself proud, as usual, at the General Assembly last month. The turnout of volunteers, including many

Presbyterian Women, was impressive. Jeanette Rapp made the Communion Table coverings, as well as many flags and banners. The Presbytery does cherish her and her many talents.

The coupons we are targeting this month are Chex cereal and Campbell soups. We shall present all the coupons to the receiving schools at the August brunch. (Please look at the list on the PW bulletin board or take a list from the library cart found in the Social Hall each Sunday.)

Speaking of the brunch, mark your calendars for August 23, and we'll see you in the Social Hall.

PW Schedule for July

Please note that circles will not meet until September.

Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am, Tues., July 8, Taiwan Restaurant

Fair Trade Coffee, Tea and Chocolate Sales, July 20, Social Hall after Worship (only the current inventory of chocolate is available - no more can be ordered until it cools off in the fall)

Book Group I, 1 pm, Mon., July 28, Liz Shandera's home reading *The Eighth Promise* by William Lee.

Book Group II will not meet until September when they will be at Betty Spicher's home to discuss *The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck.

Focus Group, 9:30 am, Tues., July 15, Elizabeth Shandera's home.

Prayer Shawl Group, 4 pm, Thurs., July 24, Fireside Room. This group does knitting and other handwork, and Janice Goertz emphasizes this activity is not gender specific.

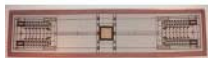
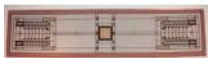
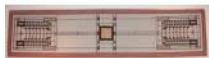
There is no **Bible Study** during June and July. However, we shall begin again in August when the Rev. Marge will begin with *Jubilee: Luke, Gospel for the Poor for 2008-2009*.

If you do not subscribe to *HORIZONS* magazine, copies will be available from Sally Magee. If you would like to subscribe to this fine magazine, talk to Sally.

- Catherine Amos



News from PW



At the beginning of its regular meeting, Tuesday, June 17, the Session heard Ken Henry's eloquent prayer, which he had used earlier that day at

SESSION BEAT

San Jose's City Hall in a ceremony of raising a rainbow flag.

With some new elders present, Ken led a discussion using the questions "What was your committee's greatest accomplishment?" and "What are your committee's challenges?" Jody Meacham of Personnel and Administration noted that his time on Session had encompassed a number of personnel changes and that he was pleased at how Stone had dealt with those changes.

The Session elected corporate officers - a requirement of the State of California and our Presbyterian *Book of Order*. Corporate officers deal with matters of property, not with ecclesiastical governing of the church. Mel Goertz was elected President and Bruce Raby Vice President of the corporation. Stone's bylaws say the Clerk of Session is secretary and the church treasurer is treasurer, ex officio. Alice Thorn was elected Clerk of Session.

The Session voted to purchase shelving for room 7 (downstairs) and a fire-resistant file cabinet for storage of church record books and selected archive materials.

Mel Goertz reported that the audit committee reviewed the church's

financial records for fiscal year 2007. Using a system of sampling and analysis, the committee concluded that the church's processes are followed and transactions are correctly recorded in the church's system of books and records. Mel gave great thanks to treasurer Dick Kistler for his exemplary work. The audit team, chaired by John Ritchie, included Ida Raby, Carolyn Clendenning, and Bill Lakatos.

Two young people Chris Duke and Kendall Searing are the new Caretakers for Stone, following the resignation of David Moncrief. Their responsibilities include security and setup, mainly on weekends.

- Alice Thorn, Clerk of Session

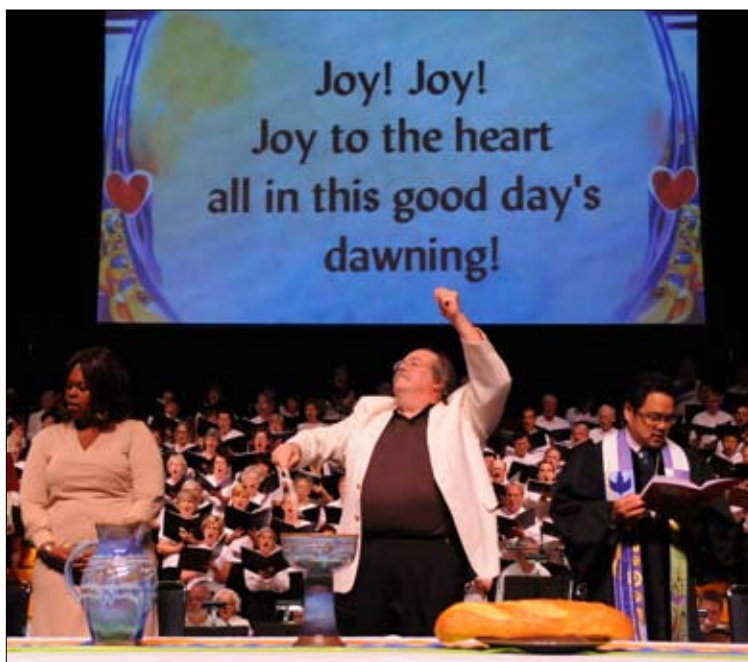
STONE CHURCH AT GA 2008

Editor's Note: The 218th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church was just ending at Stone News press time ... but we wanted to give you a glimpse of some of the many, many things Stone Church folks were involved with at that auspicious occasion ... we hope to have more pictures and more stories next month ...



Above, Stone Church choir and friends cut up 9,675 pieces of bread for the two communion services on Sunday. At left, Gordon Meacham and Rod Thorn apply labels to over 200 small cups that said "Gluten-Free." At right, Sally and Pat Magee carefully slice and package the cubes of bread.

Here is a wonderful shot of our former choir director, Leroy Kromm (and husband of our current choir director, Nancy Wait Kromm). On Leroy's right is Natasha Jackson, COLA volunteer coordinator, and on Leroy's left is the newly elected moderator, The Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow, of San Francisco. (Photo by PCUSA photographer, Joseph Williams.)



Above, Donald Foster was a critical member of the Worship Committee, chaired by Fred Oliver. This committee planned and supervised all of the Worship services, which were very, very well-received, especially Sunday's. (I couldn't find a picture of Fred ~ I don't think he stood still long enough for someone to take one!)



Above, the volunteer lounge, staffed by Jim and Linda Hagan, was always a wonderful place to rest and take your shoes off. Here, Jim Hagan, an unidentified woman, Ken Henry, and Jerry and Jan Keifer take a well-deserved break.

At right, Diana Lim and Mel Goertz diligently staffed the volunteer booth ... your editor never walked by that booth when they were not in it (and that was a lot of times!).



IRISH BLESSING BON VOYAGE CONCERT

Before they embark on their tour to Ireland and Scotland, the Stone Church Choir will present an *Irish Blessing Bon Voyage Concert*, on July 6, at 4:30 pm, and all are warmly invited.



The choir, guests from the congregation, and members of both the San Jose Symphonic Choir and the Monterey Symphony Chorus are traveling to Ireland and Scotland for a two-week concert tour, beginning July 14, under the consummate direction of Nancy Wait Kromm.

The music will be fabulous, and there is a rumor that Scottish Shortbread will be available in the Social Hall afterward. So, please come to hear wonderful music and to wish the choir *Bon Voyage!*

COME TO THE CHURCH PICNIC!

The annual gathering of the Stone Church family at History Park (south end of Kelley Park) for worship, food and fun will take place Sunday, August 17.



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

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

Be sure to invite your friends, as this is a great way to introduce people to Stone in a casual and relaxed atmosphere.

Starting July 27, you can sign-up in the Social Hall after Worship. Just tell us how many are coming, your preference for grill items, and what you are bringing for potluck.

Maps and other details will be available closer to the picnic date.

For questions, contact *Emily Moak Meacham*.

RAINFOREST ADVENTURE AT VCS

Are you looking to reach new heights of fun this summer? Then you'll want to head to Stone Church for a canopy of adventures at Rainforest Adventure!



At Rainforest Adventure, you'll hear stories about Jesus, make cool crafts, learn catchy tunes, play super games, eat great rainforest snacks and make lots of new friends. Each day offers a new Bible story to explore through loads of fun activities.

This exciting Vacation Church School is for everyone between the ages of 4 and 11. The fun begins August 4 and continues through August 8. Sessions run from 9 am until noon each day. The fee is \$30 per child or \$50 per family.

Starting June 1, you can register in the Social Hall after Worship.

See you at Rainforest Adventure!

For questions, contact *Kate Wheatley*.



Rev. Dr. Ken Henry (pictured with Rev. Rob Martin from Palo Alto First Presbyterian) offered a prayer at the *Rainbow Flag Raising Ceremony* hosted by the San Jose City Council in front of City Hall in honor of *Pride Week*, on June 17.



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