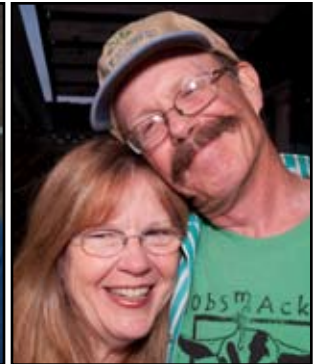
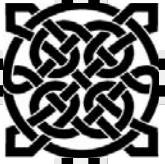


# THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

JULY 2009



## SEE YOU IN THE FALL!

*Stone's Chancel Choir celebrated their wonderful year of singing on Sunday, June 14, following their last appearance before summer break. Top: Rev. Ken Henry with organist Joyce Rhodes, and substitute organist and choir member, Donald Foster; Heather Henry; Lizanne Oliver and Mary Johnson; Director of Music Ministry, Nancy Kromm, with Parish Artist Lyn Johnson. Bottom: Emily Meacham and Derk Johnson; Miriam Rowan, Derk, Fran Van Hook-Robie, Martha Mamula, and Mary Burfine; Center: Harley Farms Goat Cheese*

## SUMMER WORSHIP AT STONE

You've probably noticed lately that every Sunday in worship at Stone Church, there seems to be something new and different going on.

Indeed, on a Sunday morning at 9:30, you may have come to worship expecting to hear the same old sermon and to sing the same old hymns, but when you arrived, children were being baptized, colorful banners were being hung, youth were being commissioned for service, and a lot of new people you had never seen before were sitting in the pews.

Of course, we still broke bread around the table and prayed our Presbyterian prayers, but there were other things in the mix, too - guitar music, a men's quartet, a choir concert, a short video of Ken interviewing people in downtown San Jose ...

... and one particularly special Sunday morning, our guest preacher

was John Muir, the Father of Our National Parks (and if you missed that Sunday, you can view it on our church website, [www.stonechurch.org](http://www.stonechurch.org)).

A few Sundays back, someone commented to me, "When I come to church these days, I never know what to expect ... and that's wonderful."

As we head into the next two months, with travel plans, patio sales, and possibly a well-deserved vacation, I wanted to share the summer worship schedule with you.

I certainly can't promise this sort of pre-planning every month - what's the surprise in that? - but I thought you might want to mark your calendar, since we have some very special guest preachers coming to Stone Church.

May this summer refresh your spirit and give you time for reflection.

- Blessings, Ken Henry

## SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- JULY 5 (COMMUNION)**  
4TH OF JULY THEME  
KEN PREACHING [PHILEMON]
- JULY 12 - KEN PREACHING**  
[COLOSSIANS 1:15-20]
- JULY 19 - KEN PREACHING**  
[COLOSSIANS 2:1-15]
- JULY 26 - JODY MEACHAM,**  
ELDER, PREACHING;  
REV. DAVID MCCREATH ASSISTING
- AUGUST 2 (COMMUNION)**  
REV. BOB BOWLES PREACHING;  
REV. MARGE PALMER ASSISTING
- AUGUST 9 - REV. DAVID BEAMER**  
PREACHING; KEN ASSISTING
- AUGUST 16 - KEN PREACHING**  
[1 KINGS 8:1,6, 10-11, 22-30,  
41-43]
- AUGUST 23 (WORSHIP AND**  
PICNIC AT HISTORY PARK) -  
KEN PREACHING
- AUGUST 30 - KEN PREACHING**  
[SONG OF SOLOMON 2:8-13;  
MARK 7:1-8]  
[SERMON TEXT IS IN BRACKETS]

# ADULT STUDY: JESUS, FLANNERY O'CONNOR, AND A SERIOUS LOOK AT THE OT

Join us for Adult Study, every Sunday at 11 am in the Fireside Room. As you can see, the classes are richly varied.

Please note that there is no class on August 23, which is the annual Worship and Picnic at History Park.

## July 19 - Aug 16: Summer Lectures: Archaeological Search for Jesus

Travel to the 1st Century world in which Jesus grew up, preached, worked wonders, gathered followers and, finally, was crucified and buried.

Our host for this archaeological journey to Galilee, Jerusalem, and the Judean Desert is Hershel Shanks, editor of *Biblical Archaeology Review*.

July 19 - Beginnings in Galilee

July 26 - Fishing in Galilee

Aug 2 - Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls

Aug 9 - Jerusalem Footsteps

Aug 16 - Jerusalem Tombs

## Aug 30: The Faith of Flannery O'Connor (Ken Henry, E. Meacham)

Please join Ken and Emily as they lead a discussion of the works of the fascinating Southern author, Flannery O'Connor.



Participants are asked to read two short stories (*Revelation* and *A Good Man is Hard to Find*) prior to the class.

## Fall Preview:

The Sunday morning Adult Study program will offer the following two series beginning in mid-September.

## Exploring the Old Testament, Part I

A thirteen-week series, *Exploring the Old Testament, Part I*, will be led by Ken Henry, Barbara Bracey, and the three Parish Associates: Marge Palmer, Dale Bracey, and David McCreath.

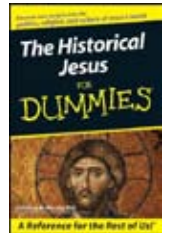
Perhaps you have never read the Old Testament. Perhaps you have not

looked at the Old Testament since you were a child in church school. Perhaps you have unanswered questions about stories in the Old Testament. Perhaps you just want the opportunity to study the Bible with Ken and some of the outstanding group of retired ministers who worship with us.

Whatever your background, this series is for you.

## The Historical Jesus

The second series, running in parallel, will be *The Historical Jesus*, based on *The Historical Jesus for Dummies*, a new book in the popular *For Dummies* series.



The first class, on September 13, will be led by the book's author, Catherine Murphy, who teaches in the Religious Studies Department at Santa Clara University.

- Pat Magee

# CHURCH LIBRARY: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY BY ONE OF OUR OWN: CHAM YEAN

This month we offer a few new books and a review. We encourage you to visit the book cart and the library.

- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

## Book Review by Sue Evans:

My *Four Years with Angkar* by Chamroeun Yean (Biog YEAN)



Cham Yean, a member of Stone Church, was studying biology at the University of Phnom Penh in 1975 when Khmer Rouge soldiers marched into the city after winning a long civil war. Cambodian people expected freedom and peace to come soon, but suddenly they were forced to leave.

Cham and her friends had to walk out of Phnom Penh, giving up valuables such as watches and bicycles along the way.

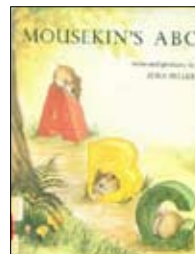
This story covers Cham's experience living under the new regime, working in the rice fields and cooking. There was much sickness and uncertainty, and she mentions her grief when some of her close friends died.

Cham was introduced to Christianity in 1977 and took it very seriously, praying to the Lord to take care of those close to her. Christianity was frowned upon by the government, so she and others had to be very careful about practicing it. She was finally taken to a U.N. camp and allowed to come to the U.S.

The book has several pictures, including one of Cham with her children Ratha and Amanda. I encourage everyone to see what they can learn from Cham's story.

## New books for younger members:

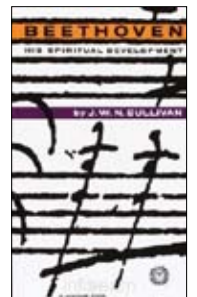
*Mousekin's ABC* by Edna Miller (1st Bks Mil)



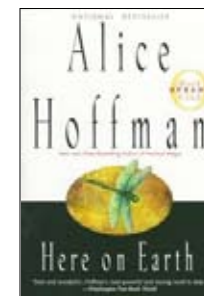
*Flush* by Carl Hiaasen (YA Hia)

## New to our special sections:

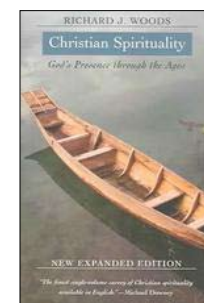
*Beethoven: His Spiritual Development* by J.W.N. Sullivan (Biog BEETHOVEN)



*Here on Earth* by Alice Hoffman (F Hof)



*The End of Nature* by Bill McKibben (Ecol 304.2 Mck)



**On our adult side:**  
*Christian Spirituality: God's Presence through the Ages* by Richard Woods (242 Woo), given by Rebecca Kuiken

## MY DEEPEST THANKS

by Mary Jo Blazek,  
Children's Ministry Coordinator

*Sometimes our light goes out but is blown into flame by another human being. Each of us owes deepest thanks to those who have rekindled this light.*  
- Albert Schweitzer

I owe "deepest thanks" to those of you at Stone Church.

Before I started my calling here at Stone Church, I had a unique job - one that I treasured and thought was my perfect vocation - "Children's Activity Coordinator" at a local hospital.

I learned so much from the children and their families about compassion, courage and love. However, those above me were very uncomfortable with my willingness to put myself out there, wanting me to keep my distance and not get personally involved.

I totally understood all the reasoning behind the requests to keep things professional, but it didn't seem right to me. Children would seek me out and run to me for a hug. Parents would cry on my shoulder as they shared the latest medical emergencies. Desperate parents would ask me to open the computer room during off hours to send emails to their loved ones at home, or to

open the pantry to let them grab a quick meal before returning to the hospital.

All were against the rules. I am not a rule breaker, so working there was always difficult - constantly being torn between regulations and what I believed to be right. With a very heavy heart, I started to look for another job.

A close friend said, "Why don't you apply for the job at Stone?"

"Me?" I said. Then I thought, why not me?

So I applied, and the rest is history. So you see, I owe "deepest thanks" to you at Stone Church - you who have "rekindled this light."

*Thank you, Mary Jo*



**STONE'S WONDERFUL CHILDREN, HAVING FUN IN CHURCH SCHOOL!**



# STONERWORKS: OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP; SHIFT ON LGBT VOTE; OPEN SPACE REQUEST

Rev. Tom Coop, in the June issue of *The Monarch Messenger*, notes that with recent budget cuts, there will be more people in our communities needing our help, and that we need to take seriously Jesus' call to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and shelter the homeless.

So, the question is: how will our church respond to what Jesus is asking us to do? The truth is we don't need more programs - we need more people living out what it means to be Christian. Times are tough, and we can each make a difference.

Here are upcoming StoneWorks events where you can contribute your time, talents, and goods:

**August 8** - "Pack-A-Back" (Pack backpacks for children at Sacred Heart)

**September** - Prepare Sat. lunch for Commercial St. women and children

**September** - Participate in the Men's Mission Worktrip to Zephyr Cove

**October** - Be a driver or shopper for the Commercial St. children's shopping trip

**October** - Help with the Men's Mission Fall Book Sale, or buy a book!

**November** - Go on the Men's Mission Worktrip to Westminster Woods

**December** - Help with the "Giving Tree" (for disadvantaged families)

And don't forget these ongoing, always-active opportunities:

- ☛ Bring food on the first Sunday of the month for Sacred Heart.
- ☛ Bring gently worn clothes for the Clothing Barrel for Sacred Heart.
- ☛ Bring Survival Sack items for the homeless at Sacred Heart.

- ☛ Bring travel toiletries for the homeless at Sacred Heart.
- ☛ Bring recyclable cans and bottles (money goes to the Heifer Fund).
- ☛ Bring quarters for the quarter tube (also goes to Heifer Fund).
- ☛ Bring cell phones and chargers for Next Door Solutions.
- ☛ Participate generously in the four annual special monetary collections. - Maureen Ryan

## A BIG Thank You!

Did you catch the BIG thank you from Refugee Ministry Advocates Elsa Amboy and Melissa Kreisa also in *The Monarch Messenger*? Stone donated 37 welcome backpacks and the fillings for new refugee arrivals. Catholic Charities is expecting roughly 150-200 people to arrive in the next four months. Melissa and Elsa said our backpacks arrived just in time - Catholic Charities was down to their last one!

## Historic Shift to LGBT Equality

In an historic shift, a record number of Presbyterians voted to remove the barriers of marital status and sexual orientation for otherwise qualified candidates to serve as ministers, elders and deacons. But the vote to ratify the amendment, passed by the General Assembly in San José in June, still fell short of the simple majority of the 87 presbyteries out of 173 needed to ratify Amendment 08-B.

This national vote continued until late May, but the final tally was 78 presbyteries "Yes" and 95 presbyteries

"No." Some are encouraged that 34 presbyteries that voted "No" the last time this came up for a vote in 2002 changed to vote in favor this time!

Our own Presbytery of San José voted affirmatively both times, and our discussions were collegial and respectful.

The total votes cast across all the presbyteries were nearly equal: 49% of presbytery commissioners voted in favor of 08-B. So it is clear that change is coming to the church, and the conversations continue. - Dale Bracey

## Help Open Spaces

Remember our wonderful Earth Stewardship Event in April at Rancho Cañada del Oro Open Space Preserve?



Sixty-two Stone Church members and friends participated in multiple hikes, learned about wildflowers and wildlife, and picnicked.

The California Supreme Court recently ruled that a \$20 parcel fee has been collected in error by the Santa Clara County Open Space Agency since 2001, and now they are ordered to return the money. But, when you receive a letter soon advising you how to apply for a refund of approximately \$130 per residential parcel, you may just want to throw it away. By doing nothing, you will support acquisition and preservation of open space. They really need the money, so please consider helping them out.

Visit [www.openspaceauthority.org](http://www.openspaceauthority.org) for more information.



At press time, Vacation Church School was just coming to a close ... here is a "preview photo" of the great time being had by all ... we'll have complete coverage in next month's newsletter.

## "SUMMER RELEASE" FOR CHILDREN

*The Adventures From The Book of Virtues*, a cartoon video series based on *The Book of Virtues* by William J. Bennett, will be offered to our children for the "summer release," as our church school staff takes a much-deserved break.

Each video presents stories that portray the results of living a particular virtue. Anchoring the series are young Zach and Annie and

a cast of animal characters including Plato, a wise buffalo; Socrates, a wily bobcat; Aristotle, a prairie dog; and Aurora, a red-tailed hawk.

The virtues of work, compassion, friendship, faith, generosity, humility, self-discipline, courage, honesty, and responsibility will be covered from July 5 to September 6, with a volunteer chaperone.

Contact Rosaleen Zisch to volunteer or for more details.

*Stars and Stripes Forever!  
Our national anthem! And if you're  
lucky, the 1812 Overture!*

*Speeches! Fireworks! Picnics!  
Family Reunions!*

*Yes, a busy month ... Enjoy!*

Four of Stone's Presbyterian Women will be attending the 2009 Churchwide Gathering of Pres-

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

*byterian Women, July 11 through 15, in*

Louisville, Kentucky. Diana Lim, Sheri Cunningham, Claudia Hamm, and Lea Lawrence

are gearing up for this event. We look forward to hearing their reports when they return. (Lea is on the planning team for this event.)



Do not forget your coupons. Yes, school is out, but we can still support the program for next year. Our emphasis this month is on *Cheerios* and *Goldfish Crackers*.

For the most part, PW is taking a break during July. However, Fair Trade coffee, tea, and chocolate will be sold on the third Sunday of the month. (See the *PW Schedule*, below, for additional ongoing meetings.)

You will want to mark your calendar for the *August Brunch* at 9:30 am on August 22 and the San Francisco Theological Seminary Auxiliary Bible Study on September 12. There will be more about both of these events in the next edition.

### PW Schedule for July:

*Note that circles will resume in September.*

**Lunch Bunch**, 11:30 am, July 14, Taiwan Restaurant

**Fair Trade Sales**, 10:30 am, July 19, Social Hall

**Focus Group**, 9:30 am, July 21, Liz Shandera's home

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**, 4 pm, July 23, Fireside Room

**Book Group I**, 1 pm, July 27, Liz Shandera's home, reading *Dewey*, by Niki Myron

**Book Group II**, no meeting  
**Bible Study with the Rev. Marge**, Church Library, August 27 - Catherine Amos

## GIFTING STONE CHURCH: AN INVESTMENT WITH GREAT RETURNS

Great gifts can come in all sizes! Many times, we think that extra giving (above pledging) means a significant gift for a specific cause, event, or program. But thoughtful smaller gifts can make a difference, as well.

When I sold my house ten years ago, I sent a check to the choir for sheet music and guest musicians. It wasn't huge, but it felt wonderful to show our choir how much I appreciate them.

A few years ago, instead of exchanging birthday and Christmas gifts with some of my friends, we agreed to contribute to the building fund.

My mother's memorial service was held at Stone Church. Mom loved and supported our back-to-school clothing program for the children. In her obituary, I requested that memorial gifts be directed to Stone Church for that program.

Be creative! Give with your heart. The rewards are great.

Please contact anyone on the Endowment Committee (Susan Bedolla, Mary-Stone Bowers, Bob James, Judi Kaiser, Ruth McCreath, Ed Tablak, and Gary Weiss) with your ideas or questions. - Susan Bedolla



Session held its last meeting of the 2008-2009 program year on Tuesday, June 16; its next meeting will be the third Tuesday of August.

## SESSION BEAT

In the meantime, there will be installation and ordination of a new class of Elders (as well as of new Deacons), orientation for new Elders, and, later on, a meeting of Elders and Deacons, and a retreat for the new Session.

In his Pastor's Report, Ken Henry announced the names of three Counselors-in-Training: Gordon Meacham, Dan Willis and Ellen Bailey. They will work with Stone Church youth in special projects over the summer.

Session approved the painting of a mural on the south wall of the preschool room to create a *sacred space* for the children. Children's Ministry Coordinator Mary Jo Blazek told Session that it was important to create warmth and life in this room.

Session spent some time discussing a proposal from the StoneWorks Committee to explore co-sponsorship of a refugee family. Tony Muiruri, from Kenya, has attended church for several years and now wants to bring his family here. Doug Williams, a guest speaker, said that the paperwork for the family is in process, although the exact time of their arrival is unknown. This is a major project to undertake and would

require time and work from a number of persons. Session gave permission for exploring, within the congregation, whether this responsibility should be undertaken.

Session learned that the church's insurer, Covenant Insurance Company, has gone out of business. The Budget and Finance Committee will arrange for new insurance; however, the church has coverage for the interim.

In preparation for the 2009-2010 fiscal and program years, Bruce Raby was elected President, and David Jaffer, Vice President, of the Corporation, and Alice Thorn was selected as Clerk of Session.

- Alice Thorn, Clerk of Session

Have you met new member, Donna Bell yet? If you haven't, you are in for a treat!

Here is a short introduction, in her own words:



## MEET NEW MEMBER, DONNA BELL

I was born and grew up in Troy, NY. I was raised in a small Reformed church where my father was an elder, my uncle a deacon, and my mother and aunts held various offices in the women's group. I joined the choir in sixth grade and have been a church choir member almost ever since.

In college, I attended mostly Episcopal and Congregational (UCC)

churches, and when my family moved to San Jose in 1975, we joined First Congregational Church of San Jose.

I've always been drawn to contemplative practices and have been a member of the World Community of Christian Meditation for over 20 years. That drew me to the Stone Taizé services, which I have attended periodically over the past 10 years.

My nursing career has been a mission and calling to ministry for me. It has led me in interesting and challenging experiences. I have worked in hospital nursing at El Camino Hospital, with Hospice of the Valley for 10 years, and with ACTS for the Homeless and InnVision. I've also set up and case managed an HIV/AIDS clinic in Fremont for low income clients.

I'm currently working for O'Connor Hospital in the parish nurse department. Three programs are my current

challenges at the hospital: case management for retired priests in the Diocese of San Jose; health education/screenings/community building at Catholic Charities Senior Eastside Neighborhood Center; and assessments/trainings/support groups/information-referrals/health education for Catholic Charities Day Break Adult Day Care Center/Caregiver Respite and Senior Transportation Program.

I also have a small practice in Healing Touch. As a certified holistic nurse, it has deepened and enhanced my work and my faith.

My two children are grown and no longer living in San Jose. My son and his family are in Georgia, my daughter and her family in Colorado. My sister and my 94-year-old mother are still in New York, so the church family at Stone Church has become my local family.

- Donna Bell



Left: Heather's father and mother, Rex and Nancy Bell Anderson, with Dan's sister, Judy Kirby of Longview, WA, and Jean Raby; Above: Nancy Bell Anderson inside the museum.

## RABYS VISIT WASHINGTON, OREGON, TOUR HEATHER'S MOM'S MUSEUM!

Just before they left for a two-week trip to visit Dan's mother, Jean and Dan Raby learned that Heather Henry's mother ran a historical museum very close to where they were going.

So, in addition to visiting Dan's mother, in Longview, Washington, on the occasion of her 93rd birthday, they also visited Rex and Nancy Bell Anderson at the Knappton Cove Heritage Center, near Astoria, Oregon.

The center is a nonprofit organization committed to the preservation and interpretation of the history at the "Ellis Island" Columbia River Quarantine Station historic site.

Nancy met the Rabys at the center and gave them a fantastic tour of the old Quarantine Hospital or *Pesthouse* as it was called. Heather's grandparents purchased the site in 1950 and established the Knappton Cove Camp. It became a sports fishing campground

and moorage. In 1995, the center was established, and in 2005, it received nonprofit status.

Anyone traveling to the Astoria, Oregon, area should ask Heather how to contact her mother for a tour of this historical site.

The town of Astoria also has a wonderful Maritime Museum, which provides a great look back into the history of Columbia River shipping.

- Dan and Jean Raby



*Here are some more great photos from the End-of-the-Church-Year Choir Party! Thanks so much to Dan Raby for taking them. The choir will return in the fall ... rested and ready to sing!*



## WANT TO BLOG WITH KEN?

Ken Henry has been doing some blogging at the Stone Church Ning website ([www.ning.com](http://www.ning.com)).

He notes, "If other folks want to talk to me through this site, I will do my best to respond."

## INTERESTED IN A TREK?

Leland Wong is organizing a Stone Church group to participate in the Westminster Woods Trek-a-Thon (a fundraiser for the camp) on Saturday, September 26. Please contact Leland if you are interested in this very fun and worthwhile event.

For more information, go to: [www.westminsterwoods.org/Trek-a-Thon.php](http://www.westminsterwoods.org/Trek-a-Thon.php)

## POTLUCK ON JULY 26

To honor all of our recent new members, there will be a "Salads of Summer" potluck on Sunday, July 26, starting at 11:30 am. Just bring your favorite salad or dessert to share.

## GET READY FOR STONE'S PATIO SALE!

The Stone Church Patio Sale is coming soon! Be sure that July 17, 4 to 8 pm, and July 18, 9 am to 3 pm, are on your calendar.

We're looking for donations of household goods, antiques and treasures (new gifts to be recycled), clothing, furniture, sporting goods, yard tools and decorations, toys, books, electronics, jewelry and accessories.

A bake sale will take place both Friday and Saturday. Expect to find homemade pastries, jams and jellies, and condiments - sample these treats during the sale, or take them home to your family.

On Friday night, enjoy our "strolling musicians" as you select choice items for purchase.

On Saturday, children's activities will include face-painting and lots of toys to shop for. As your children are entertained, you can

wander through our backyard "Clothes Horse" area, treat yourself to accessories to go with your new outfit, or select just the right mirror to put in your home.

All this wonderful and practical shopping can take place only if you volunteer to help make our sale a success:

- Have time to work on either Friday night or Saturday? Sign up on July 12.
- Have donations? Bring them to the Church School Wing anytime from July 12 to 16.
- Need a pickup? Contact Judi Kaiser.
- Want to sort/display goods for sale during the week (either daytime/evening)? Sign up on July 12.

Join us at this fun-filled sale with a community focus ... wonderful bargains ... gently used items ... good food ... and plenty of friendly faces. See you there! - Judi Kaiser



Vacation Church School, "Clean Water for all God's Children," was just finishing up at press time ... we were able to grab a few "preview photos" ... but stay tuned for much more coverage in next month's edition of The Stone News.

Mary Jo Blazek, Children's Ministry Coordinator, would like to extend a BIG thank you to all staff, parents, and children for a fabulous week. She said, "It was an enchanting week filled with love, friendship and gifts. Watch for the photo album on Stone's website coming soon!"

The Stone Church of Willow Glen  
Presbyterian Church (USA)  
1937 Lincoln Avenue  
(corner of Clark & Lincoln)  
San Jose, CA 95125-3499

Website:  
[www.stonechurch.org](http://www.stonechurch.org)

Church Office:  
phone: 408-269-1593  
fax: 408-269-8412

Rev. Dr. Ken Henry, Pastor  
Claudia Hoagland, Office Manager

The Stone News Staff:  
June Tablak, Editor Emeritus, Church Mouse  
Emily Moak Meacham, Editor  
Pat Magee, Rhonda Lakatos, Jody Meacham,  
Fred Oliver, Lizanne Oliver: Assistant Editors  
Sylvia Snyder, Chief Photographer  
Mary Jo Blazek, Dan Raby: Adtl. Photos  
Fred Gardner, Catherine Amos,  
Charlotte Dickson, Sylvia Snyder,  
Jan Keifer, Jerry Keifer: Production