

THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

AUGUST 2009



FROM VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL TO THE PATIO SALE FUNDRAISER, STONE CHURCH IS ONE FUN AND EXCITING PLACE! (SEE STORIES, PAGE 3)



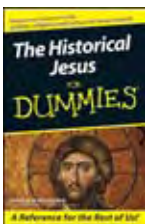
ADULT STUDY: OLD TESTAMENT, "HISTORICAL JESUS," "AN ALTAR IN THE WORLD"

The Adult Education Subcommittee is pleased and excited to announce two new Adult Study classes: (1) *Exploring the Old Testament*, part I, led by Ken Henry and the three Parish Associates, and (2) *The Historical Jesus*, with Catherine Murphy of Santa Clara University's Religious Studies Department as kick-off speaker.

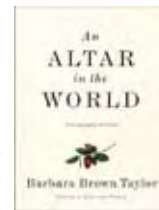
The participants in the Young Families Summit – particularly the parents of young children in the Church School – expressed a need for a true introduction to the Bible. In response, Ken Henry and the three Parish Associates will be offering *Exploring the Old Testament*, part I, a 13-week class beginning September 13 and running

through mid-December. The resource guide costs \$15 and may be shared by a couple. (See the article below for more about this class.)

Also beginning on September 13 is a five-week series on *The Historical Jesus*. Professor Catherine Murphy of Santa Clara University has written a delightful, easy-to-read book, *The Historical Jesus for Dummies* – a new entry in the popular *Dummies* series. (And, no, we are not saying Stone Church members are dummies – just the opposite.) We are fortunate to have Ms. Murphy as our speaker for the first class.



The acclaimed writer and preacher, Barbara Brown Taylor, will be the *Henrietta Perdue Memorial Lecturer* on October 23 and 24. She will also preach and lead the Adult Study class that Sunday, October 25. A four-week study of her most recent book, *An Altar in the World*, will follow in November. (Tickets are \$20 for Friday evening, \$20 for Saturday morning, or \$30 for both days.)



Class signups, study books, class materials, and detailed information on all classes are available Sundays after worship. You can also contact Ken Henry, Dale Bracey, or Pat Magee.

THE AUDACITY OF "EXPLORING THE OLD TESTAMENT" - JOIN US THIS FALL

Stone Church members have said that they would like to have more than a superficial, nodding acquaintance with the Bible. For this reason, we are offering an Adult Study class, *Exploring the Old Testament*, part I.

"Do I have to actually spend time reading (gasp) the Bible?!" Yes, we ask you to make a personal commitment to read much of the "primary text" each week. You see, we'll use the inductive approach: students will commit to read sections of the Bible before class; then, in class their discoveries and questions will be pursued, with teachers adding background material.

"Do you really think many would sign-up for such an "Exploring"?" We're gratified that over 30 have already registered!

"Can I just drop-in on this interesting class from time to time?" We don't encourage this. At the same time, we recognize that many will be away some weekends over the 13-week period. We'll help you make up.

"What will be covered in "Exploring"?" Part I is an in-depth survey of the books of Exodus through Kings, the "core," which recounts the formation of God's people out of slavery in Egypt, through the wilderness wanderings and

conquest, entering a Promised Land, fighting to establish a nation, coming to the height of its influence, and then disintegrating.

The teachers for the class will be Ken Henry, Dale and Barb Bracey, David McCreath, and Marge Palmer. The class runs from September 13 through December 13, from 11 am to 12:15 pm (there's no class November 29). Childcare will continue after worship until 12:15 pm for parents to be able to attend together.

Sign-ups are required by August 17 to insure that we arrange for enough materials and space. - Dale Bracey

NEED A GOOD BIBLE? REV. DALE BRACEY HELPS US PICK JUST THE RIGHT ONE

Sometimes I'm asked what Bible to buy when someone is hunting for a Bible to use in classes or for personal study. Without hesitation I recommend the *New Revised Standard Version (NRSV)*, which is the version we read in worship, the translation of our pew Bibles, and the Bible we use in most adult studies.

The NRSV was published in 1989, and it is a true translation from the original Hebrew and Greek manuscripts. It makes use of new discoveries of word usage from the *Dead Sea Scrolls* and other archeological discoveries.

In my estimation, it is the best and most faithful translation in English available. Dozens of major Biblical scholars agree!

The problem is – when you go into a local bookstore, it's difficult to find a good NRSV choice. So here are two additional recommendations:

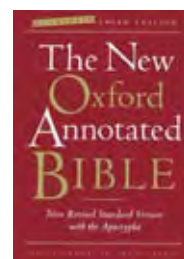
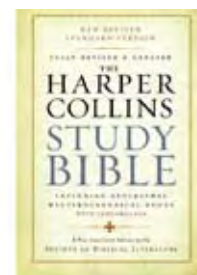
(1) Choose an NRSV that has easy-to-read print. It seems like most of the Bibles on sale are printed in miniscule type that is daunting to read. Don't buy that frustration!

(2) Select an NRSV Study Bible with footnotes that clarify words used and connect them to the theme and where that theme is used elsewhere. Good study Bibles also give an introduction to each book of the Bible and provide maps that

even a casual student will find valuable.

Three such study Bibles are recommended: *The Discipleship Study Bible*, recently published in 2008 (\$26.37); *The Harper Collins Study Bible* (\$29.67); and *The New Oxford Annotated Bible* (\$29.70). Be sure to buy the NRSV editions that also include the Apocrypha.

The best buy on these hardcover editions is through Amazon.



- Dale Bracey

CLEAN WATER FOR ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

by Mary Jo Blazek,
Children's Ministry Coordinator

Some may think water is a very easy thing to obtain – just turn on the faucet. However, if you were among the 43 children and 25 adults who attended and helped support this year's Vacation Church School, you would know much more about the importance of water.

During the second week in June, children were energized by lively music and wet games, but that was not all. They also learned of water struggles in different countries, as well as water issues here at home.

We had several guests who stopped by to tell us water stories of the Bible. The first day, Mother Earth came by to share the wonderful creation story.

Moses parted the Red Sea on Tuesday. Wednesday, we had the privilege of meeting Naaman's wife who told us about Naaman's leprosy and how he was healed by water (and God's love). On Thursday, John the Baptist with his unruly hair told us of the day he baptized Jesus. The last day, the woman at the well told us a riveting story of her encounter with Jesus.

Our mission project was Playpumps International. This is a wonderful non-profit organization that provides villages with kid-powered water systems (take a look at their website, www.playpumps.com). The work they are doing is amazing, and it also shows children what an impact on the world they really have.

Each day the children brought their coins to be added to the "Giant Water Bottle." We collected \$278! Thanks to everyone who contributed and to Ida Raby, who dried and counted it *all!* And thanks to Bill Ribble, the children even had their own water



pump systems, which they shared with the congregation during coffee fellowship.

Daily, the children traveled with their adult guides, or tributaries, to creative crafts, to wet games, to yummy snacks, and to a thoughtful mission time where they were treated to many inspiring activities.

Many thanks to all who helped; you were an awesome group.

Water is for all God's children. Let's help this become a reality!

STONE'S PATIO SALE WAS A HUGE SUCCESS, ANY WAY YOU MEASURE IT!

Success is measured in many ways: a feeling of completion ... a smile ... warm hugs ... a sense of community ... meeting or exceeding your goals ...

On July 17 and 18, Stone Church members and friends gave the Willow Glen community a sterling example of friendship. How satisfying to see church members, young and old, working together while producing our first church Patio Sale fundraiser.

And what pictures and stories we gathered for our collective memory book ... the entire church facility literally "stuffed to the rafters" with old, new and gently used items for sale.

In the backyard ... a ton of clothing, spread on hedges and hanging from trees, as locals milled about selecting items for their families ... three Christmas trees, in July! ... dozens of towels, later collected and taken to the Humane Society to be used in the cat and dog kennels ... rack upon rack of clothing, new and used ... T-shirts ... so many used T-shirts!

In the Social Hall ... full of household items, new and used ... fabrics and yarn ... jewelry and accessories ... yummy baked goods, from wonderful

homemade jams and curd, given by Stone Church members, to cookies and bread given by Whole Foods and bagels given by Noah's ... and a host of volunteer sales people and cashiers, each with a "Stone Church Smile" on



their faces as they dispensed goodwill to the Willow Glen community.

On the Patio ... crowded with furniture, lamps, electronic equipment and people ... church youth hanging from the "climbing tree" while keeping little children busy with games, toys, face-painting and clowning ... and everyone eating delicious hot dogs for lunch.

In the Fireside Room ... the "Antiques-Collectibles Room" (largely support-

ed by the donations of one Stone member) ... barely handling the masses of Willow Glen residents who streamed in and out, purchasing dolls, lace, china and other memorabilia.

In the Narthex ... well, it has never looked so "library-ish" ... chock full of books, records, and CDs.

But at the end of the day, Stone Church was returned to a more normal, peaceful "look" by dozens of volunteers who restored everything in a record one-and-a-half hours.

Yes, our first Patio Sale was a giant success. People from near and far arrived and were *served* – not one of Ken's rousing sermons or even coffee in a blue mug – but *by* the Stone Church community. All were given a hearty welcome into our church environs and fellowship, as only Stone Church members can do.

Whether you donated items ... set up, sold, took down ... or "shopped 'til you dropped" ... many thanks to all for a job very well-done ... for you see, we did far exceed our original \$4,000 goal – we raised \$8,500 for the continuing wonderful ministry of Stone Church. *- Judi Kaiser*

STONEWORKS THANKS CONGREGATION FOR GENEROSITY, NOTES RECOGNITION

The StoneWorks Committee wants to sincerely thank the congregation for outstanding giving and gracious generosity over the past several months.

Every Little Bit Helps

Your donations of all sorts of things really add up ...

In June, Karen Scott took the following to Sacred Heart Community Service:

- ☛ 9 bags & 2 large boxes of clothes
- ☛ 11 bags of toiletries
- ☛ 12 pairs of glasses
- ☛ 2 shopping bags of paper bags
- ☛ 1 bag of plastic bags
- ☛ Many plastic hangers

In June, Fred Groppuso collected the following recycling amounts (totalling \$53.50) to give to the church school for its ongoing Heifer project:

- ☛ 6/1 - \$ 6.50
- ☛ 6/4 - 4.00
- ☛ 6/10 - 18.00
- ☛ 6/15 - 7.25
- ☛ 6/20 - 6.25
- ☛ 6/30 - 11.50

On July 5, Fred took 12 bags of food (79.25 pounds) to Sacred Heart.

You may not realize how much even the smallest donation helps, but it all adds up to benefit others greatly.

Please continue to bring your donations of clothing, toiletries, etc., to the Donation Station, located in the church school hallway. And don't forget to bring recyclables to the church for Fred's recycling ministry. Last, but not least, continue to bring food on the Sunday that we receive the "bread of life" - Communion Sunday.

One Great Hour/Pentecost Offerings

StoneWorks also thanks the congregation for generous giving to two recent special offerings.



For *One Great Hour of Sharing*, you gave \$4474.20, which was sent to our Presbytery.



For the *Pentecost Offering*, you gave \$2,723. 60% was sent to our Presbytery, and 40% stayed with Stone for youth-at-risk mission.

Have Any Extra Fresh Fruit?

Most of us are "just around the corner" from Sacred Heart (on Alma Avenue). Even though our area is quarantined due to the fruit fly infestation,

Sacred Heart is accepting fresh fruit from our backyard trees.

Stone members who work weekly at Sacred Heart packing and distributing lunches say, "I know people are always looking for ways to get rid of their extra fruit, and we sure could use it!" You can either take fruit directly to Sacred Heart or bring it to church on Sunday, and StoneWorks will make sure your food offerings get to those who need them most.

Recognition from Refugee Forum

Stone Church has been recognized with a certificate for "... generous commitment of time and talents in helping newcomers. Our world is a better place because of volunteers like you."

The certificate comes from the Refugee and Immigrant Forum of Santa Clara County. Stone was submitted as a candidate for this recognition by our Presbytery Refugee Ministry representatives. Many refugee families will be warmly welcomed this summer with the over-stuffed backpacks we provided.

The certificate will be displayed at the Donation Station.

- Maureen Ryan

CHURCH LIBRARY SPOTLIGHTS FASCINATING BIOGRAPHIES: CHECK OUT ONE SOON!

We'd like to spotlight our library's biographies this month. Three shelves are filled with names like Bach, Bonhoeffer, Buechner; Carter, Calvin, Dillard; L'Engle, Mandela, Merton; Roosevelt, Schweitzer, Spong; Wiesel and Wallenberg; Karen Armstrong, Malcolm Boyd, Robert McAfee Brown, Donaldina Cameron, Dorothy Day, Mother Teresa, Andrew Young.

You will find some of these on the book cart in the Social Hall, and others in the Library. Happy reading!

- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

Recent additions for young members:

Dear Juno by Soyung Pak (J Pak), given by Rebecca Kuiken



Faith the Cow by Susan B. Hoover (J 363 Hoo), given by Rosaleen Zisch



The Play Party Book: Singing Games for Children by Ed Durlacher (J 784.6 Dur), given by Dorothy Stevens, a friend of the author



Just a Few Words, Mr. Lincoln: The Story of the Gettysburg Address by Jean Fritz (J 973.7 Fri)

The Secret of the Underground Room by John Bellairs (YA Bel)



The Amazing Panda Adventure by Todd Strasser (YA Str)

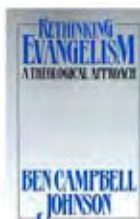
New on our adult side:

Naming the Powers: The Language of Power in the New Testament by Walter Wink (235 Win), given by Rebecca Kuiken

The World Is a Wedding: Explanations in Christian Spirituality by A.M. Allchin (242 All)

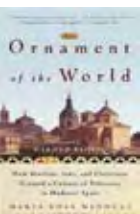


Rethinking Evangelism: A Theological Approach by Ben Campbell Johnson (269.2 Joh)



Seeing Jazz: Artists & Writers on Jazz ed. by Elizabeth Goldson (700 Gol)

Ornament of the World: How Muslims, Jews & Christians Created a Culture of Tolerance in Medieval Spain by Maria Rosa Menocal (946.01 Men)



In our special sections:

To Be a Christian Is To Be a Revolutionary, autobiography of Father James Guadalupe Carney (Biog CARNEY)

Just Because They've Left Doesn't Mean They're GONE: How to Love & Support Your Adult Children by Stephen Bly (Family-Par 306 Bly)



Iced tea, lemonade, hammocks, good books, and visiting. Last call for lounging because now is the time for all good women to gather their strength and prepare for the activities of fall.

The biggest event of the month for Stone's Presbyterian Women will be the seventh annual **AUGUST BRUNCH** on Saturday, August 22, from 9:30 to noon.

The program will be by Flo Oy Wong, who will present her artwork.



From a quote by Moira Roth, a Mills College art professor: "As an artist, she [Wong] moves with consummate grace and curiosity from medium to medium: quilt-making and sewing, drawing, painting ..."

Reservations can be made during Coffee Fellowship, or by contacting Hazel James by August 18: please let Hazel know by August 8 if you need

childcare. Brunch donation is \$5 at the door. We also appreciate gifts of socks or underwear for children, women or men, which will go to Sacred Heart Community Service.

Bring your friends for this enjoyable, enlightening kick-off of the coming year ahead for Presbyterian Women of Stone Church.

The second date of note is August 27, when, at 9:30 am in the church library, we shall rejoice that the Rev. Marge will again present her enlightening Bible Studies in preparation for circle meetings. This year's study centers on the Book of Joshua (yes, he who "fit the battle of Jericho").



Kindred Spirit #1, 2001, 62" x 28", mixed media - brocade, dyed rice sack, beads, text

by Flo Oy Wong

An introduction to this Bible Study will be held Sept. 12 from 9:30 am to 2 pm, at the San Francisco Theological Seminary. Lunch is included. It is suggested that interested women form carpools for this event. Deadline for reservations is September 2.

Don't forget your coupons. Since this is the picnic season, you may find new uses for Hamburger Helper and Spaghetti-Os for your young ones.

PW Schedule for August:

(Circles & Book Group II will resume in Sept.)

Lunch Bunch, 11:30 am, August 11, Taiwan Restaurant

Coordinating Team, 9:30 am, August 13, Social Hall

Fair Trade Sales, 10:30 am, August 16, Social Hall

Focus Group, 9:30 am, August 18, Liz Shandera's home

August Brunch, 9:30 am, August 22, Social Hall

Book Group I, 1 pm, August 31, Liz Shandera's (members' choices)

Bible Study with Rev. Marge Palmer, 9:30 am, August 27, Church Library

Prayer Shawl Ministry, 4 pm, August 27, Fireside Room

- Catherine Amos

Ruby Hudspeth has done great things at Stone Church, even though old-timers describe her as modest and unassuming.

She is remembered as a small lady wearing gloves and a dark red hat, often standing on the church steps to welcome worshippers. She was active in a Bible class and in

Women's Association from 1953-68, developing a number of close friendships.

Words used to describe her include "bright," "humorous," "dedicated," "purposeful," "well organized" and "concerned about mission."

Twice-widowed, Ruby had one son

who had a disability and was never able to finish college or live independently. She arranged for her assets to take care of Peter for the rest of his life, and then to pass to Stone Church, some specifically to Presbyterian Women.

Through this generous act, she broadened her family to include all the current and future members of this church community.

Just as Glenn Jones was a trustworthy administrator of Ruby's funds during her son's lifetime, others at Stone, such as the PW Coordinating Team, exercise integrity in carrying a gift like Ruby's far into the future.

In the first 13 years of the Ruby Hudspeth Trust, PW has used interest from her gift to help 29 Stone Church youth attend college and four other students complete seminary and vocational training.

In addition, \$53,577 has helped countless people, such as the following:

- babies and moms visited by Santa Clara County Public Health Nurses
- young adults served by the Bill Wilson Center
- young women in the Planned Parenthood Teen Success Program
- children and adults helped by Next Door Solutions to Domestic Violence

The writer of 1 Peter 2:5 advised, "... like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house ..."

Ruby is a living stone who continues to welcome people to our church and to exemplify generous giving.

- Sue Williams

SESSION AND DEACONS ANNOUNCE COMMITTEE AND DEACON ASSIGNMENTS

The Session and the Board of Deacons would like to announce the following Session Committee and Deacon Assignments for the church year, July 2009 through June 2010.

Committees of the Session:

Budget & Finance:

Bruce Raby, Chair;
David Jaffer, Vice Chair

Buildings & Grounds:

Judi Kaiser, Chair;
Steven Graham, Vice Chair;
Kendall Searing, Youth Elder

Christian Education:

Jonathan Miller, Chair;
Kate Wheatley, Vice Chair

Health Ministry:

Carrie Giorgianni, Chair;
Alice Bailey, Vice Chair

Membership & Evangelism:

Emily Meacham, Chair;
Cathy Marshall, Vice Chair

Nominating:

Gail Chaid, Chair

Personnel & Administration:

Susan Bedolla, Chair;
Ed Tablak, Vice Chair

Stewardship:

Guy Lohman, Chair;
Michele Chandler, Vice Chair

StoneWorks:

Maureen Ryan, Chair;
Charlotte Pizzo, Vice Chair

Worship:

Donald Foster, Chair;
Walter Roach, Vice Chair

Clerk of Session:

Alice Thorn

Deacon Assignments:

Moderator: Pauline Moore

Vice Moderator: Don Skipwith

Secretary: Carolyn Clendenning

Memorials: Janice Goertz

Visitation: Don D'Angelo

Ripples, Special Needs: Michael Donald

Rides: Nancy McClaran, Blake Tablak

Prayer Chain: Bill Lakatos, Jody Meacham

Greeter/Guestbook: Ruth White

Flowers: Meredith Wright

New Member Welcome: Joyce Summers

Deacon Enrichment/Training: Steve Nelson

Parents' Day Out: Mary Jo Blazek

Senior Christmas Event: Ann Pierce

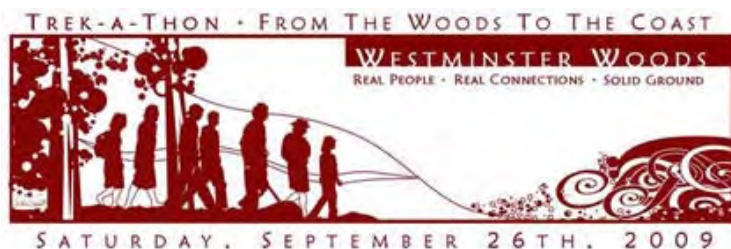
Midwinter Event: Joyce Degan, Nora Kelly

Easter Egg Hunt: Andrew Edwards

Spring Event: Claire Ribble

Spring Lunch: Sue Evans

ACTIVITIES OF THE MEN'S MINISTRY



BOOK SIGNING WITH SCOTTY MCLENNAN, AUTHOR OF "JESUS WAS A LIBERAL"

The First Christian Church of San Jose is sponsoring a free book signing and conversation with Scotty McLennan, author of *Jesus Was a Liberal*, on Wednesday, August 19, at 7 pm.



Was Jesus a "liberal"? Scotty McLennan makes a compelling case based on scripture, church history and more.

What would Jesus say about Abortion, Gay Marriage, Poverty, the Iraq War and other big issues of our time? McLennan's answers can be argued, but not ignored.

After rooming with Gary Trudeau at Yale, Rev. McLennan, Stanford's Dean of Religious Life, became the model for Rev. Scott Sloan in "Doonesbury." McLennan has J.D. and M.Div. degrees from Harvard and pursued a "legal ministry" for years in a low-income Boston neighborhood.

First Christian Church is located at 80 South Fifth Street, San Jose (next to City Hall and around the corner from the Martin Luther King Library).

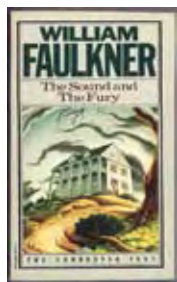
- Pat Magee

The Men's Ministry of Stone Church includes a mission work team, a book group, and a flying group.

For more information about any of these groups, contact Parish Associate David McCreath.

Men's Book Group

The Men's Book Group begins a new season on August 17, with the selection of William Faulkner's *The Sound and The Fury*.



Considered one of Faulkner's best novels, the story concerns a family in a small town in Mississippi struggling

with heritage and change in the mid-twentieth century.

Consult the weekly worship bulletin for an announcement of the host. All men of the church are welcome.

Westminster Woods Trek-a-Thon

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.

And for more information, check out this website:

www.westminsterwoods.org/Trek-a-Thon.php



More Great Photos of the Patio Sale!



And More of Vacation Church School!



**COME JOIN
US FOR
WORSHIP
AND PICNIC
IN THE PARK!**



Are you ready for a worship service surrounded by the beauty of nature? For delicious food and fellowship? For games and general merriment, as well?

The annual Stone Church *Worship and Picnic in the Park* is set for Sunday, August 23, in History Park, at the south end of Kelley Park.

Worship will start at 10 am, with the picnic following immedi-

ately afterward. Then, let the games begin!

All you need to bring is a potluck side dish or dessert to share. Stone Church chefs will be grilling the main course, and drinks will also be provided.

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

Look for the sign-up table in the Social Hall each Sunday in August. Just tell us how many are coming, your preferences for the grilled items, and what you are bringing as potluck items.

Maps and specific details will be available at the sign-up table.

For questions, contact Emily Meacham or Cathy Marshall.



**EVERYONE HAD SO MUCH FUN AT
VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL!**

*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*

*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
Dan Raby, Judi Kaiser: Additional Photos
Catherine Amos, Charlotte Dickson,
Fred Gardner, Jan Keifer, Jerry Keifer,
Sylvia Snyder: Production*