

THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

MAY 2010



THE COURAGE OF EL SALVADOR

by Katie Henry

Katie Henry, a sophomore at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, was recently part of a delegation to El Salvador, sponsored by the South Bay Sanctuary Covenant. She would like to thank the Stone Church community for making it possible for her to go on this trip.

Being part of the South Bay Sanctuary Covenant delegation to El Salvador this past March gave me and twenty-three other volunteers the opportunity to learn about the lives and hardships of the people of El Salvador - directly from them.

Proximity is the most powerful way to understand cultures and problems in other countries. Hearing the accounts of the people of El Salvador, firsthand, made their problems come



to life. The stories they told had value beyond measure, and I am so grateful they were willing to share them with us. Their powerful messages will continue to make an impact on the way I view many issues now and in the future.

The delegation was in El Salvador during the 30th anniversary of the



assassination of Oscar Romero, the archbishop who led a movement for nonviolent justice. After the assassination of Romero, a civil war broke out between the left-wing FMLN party and right-wing Arena party.

Gloria, my host mother in the Bajo Lempa, began fighting in a guerrilla army for the FMLN when she was only thirteen. The hardships she faced during the war included raising a baby, almost being killed multiple times, and being lost in the forest for three months. The headaches she experiences today are a reminder of a bomb that dropped from a plane just a few feet away from her.

These experiences are not uncommon in El Salvador. Just like Gloria, everyone who fought in the war went through

life-threatening experiences every day. Meeting people like Gloria made me realize the strength of her generation. They have been through things I could never even dream of happening to me here in the USA.

Now that the FMLN party is in power, with Mauricio Funes as president, there appears to be hope for the future of El Salvador. However, dangerous situations still abound. The streets are lined with security forces, and the police carry an overabundance of weapons. *(continued on page 4)*





Stone's Annual Easter Egg Hunt: Peeps, Eggs, Laughter, and Lots of Fun!



EASTER EGGS HAVE BEEN FOUND! ... BUT MORE FUN IS COMING AT VCS

by Mary Jo Blazek,
Children's Ministry Coordinator

Easter Egg Hunt: Peeps, Eggs, Fun!

On the Saturday before Easter, the Social Hall was filled with children, and their parents, singing, dancing, enjoying craft projects ... waiting ... waiting for the annual Deacon-sponsored *Easter Egg Hunt* to begin!

There was even a very yellow *Peep* to help them find the over 200 hard-

boiled eggs decorated by the high school group. It was a very wonderful way to share a lovely spring morning - with family and fellowship.

Vacation Church School 2010: Green Clean World for All God's Children

This year, our Vacation Church School theme will be *Green Clean World for All God's Children*.

Remembering the three Rs - recycle, reduce, and reuse - we will create a fun-filled week of games, crafts, and play time. During all of our activities, we will hear God's word about how to take care of this precious gift given to us - Earth.

The dates and times for VCS are June 21-25, from 9 am to 12 pm.

All children from kindergarten through sixth grade are welcome to participate; older children are invited to help with the younger children.

Adult volunteers are needed; please contact Mary Jo (call the church office).

We will start to collect recycled items in May.

Look for a collection box with a list of items needed in the Social Hall.

And be sure to tell all of your friends - everyone is welcome!

ADULT ED LOOKS AT EL SALVADOR TRIP, RAISING RESILIENT CHILDREN, MICAH

Stone Church provides stimulating and varied Adult Education classes every Sunday morning at 11:15 am in the Fireside Room.

Please note that there are no classes on May 16 (Congregational Meeting) or May 23 (Salads of Summer Luncheon).

May 2: South Bay Sanctuary Covenant Delegation to El Salvador

The delegation, including four Stone members, reports on their trip (see the articles on page 1 and page 4).

May 9: Faith Journeys at Stone Church

Lynn Stutz will share her faith journey with the class.

May 30: Faith Journeys at Stone Church

Roland Neufeld will share his faith journey with the class.

June 6: Raising Resilient Children in a Stressful World, presented by Dawn Charron Pream

Parents need fine-tuned stress management skills to successfully guide children through the rough waters of childhood and into their adult lives.

Dawn Charron Pream, for the Health Ministries Committee, will discuss techniques to support our children in learning appropriate and healthy coping skills to survive in today's hectic world (see the article on page 5).

June 13: Planned Giving Presentation

Stone Church members and others talk about making bequests to our church (see the article on page 6).

June 20 and 27: Social Justice and the Prophets: Micah

This is the second in a series of short classes on the Old Testament prophets and their call for social justice.

Micah proclaimed his prophetic message after the Northern Kingdom had been destroyed, and Judah was a vassal state of Assyria (742 - 702 BC).

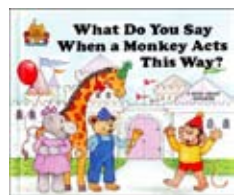
For more information about these classes or any others, please contact Pat Magee, chair, Adult Education Subcommittee.

LIBRARY ADDS BOOKS ON MONKEYS, HIEROGLYPHS, PHANTOMS ... AND MORE!

Want some new ideas? Some interesting reading? Look for our new books - both on the book cart in the Social Hall and in our two-room library in the Lincoln House! And please consider joining us as a volunteer.

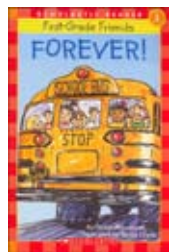
- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

New for our younger members:



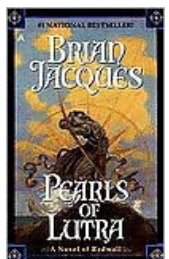
What Do You Say When a Monkey Acts This Way? by Jane Moncure (1st Bks Mon)

First-Grade Friends Forever! by Grace Maccarone (1st Bks Mac)



The Secret Garden, A Little Princess, and Little Lord Fauntleroy by Frances Hodgson Burnett (YA Bur)

Pearls of Lutra by Brian Jacques (YA Jac)

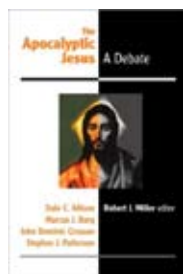


ZAP Science: A Scientific Playground in a Book



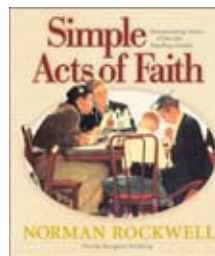
by John Cassidy et al (YA 500 Cas)

New on our adult side:

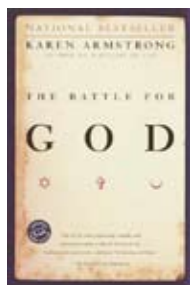


The Apocalyptic Jesus: A Debate [Borg, Crossan, D Allison, R Miller, S Patterson] ed. by Robert Miller (232.9 Mil)

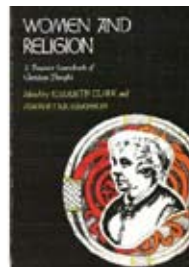
Simple Acts of Faith by Norman Rockwell (242 Roc)



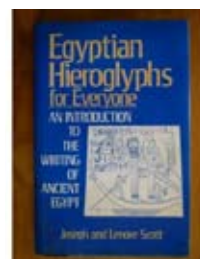
The Battle for God: A History of Fundamentalism by Karen Armstrong (291.2 Arm)



Women & Religion: A Feminist Sourcebook of Christian Thought ed. by Elizabeth Clark and Herbert Richardson (261.8 Cla)



Egyptian Hieroglyphs for Everyone: An Introduction to the



Writing of Ancient Egypt by Joseph & Lenore Scott (411 Sco)

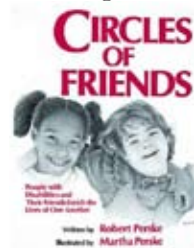
In our special sections:



"Science & Theology in Creative Interaction," Three lectures by Robert Russell, Feb. 2010, at Stone (DVD 44 ABC)

Science, Evolution, and

Creationism by the National Academy of Sciences Institute of Medicine (Ecol 576 Nat), given by Pat Magee



Circles of Friends: People with Disabilities & Their Friends Enrich the Lives of One Another by Robert Perske

(Spec Needs 362.4 Per), given by Ruth McCreath

The Phantom of the Opera by Gaston Leroux (F Ler)



A Severe Mercy by Sheldon Vanauken [including 18 C. S. Lewis letters] (B VANAUKEN), given by Joyce Rhodes

STONERWORKS' HEARTWARMING MISSION PROJECTS AT HOME AND ABROAD

The StoneWorks Committee shares two stories of friendship and mission – one here at home and one much farther away.

Bill and Renate Lytle Take Our Refugee Family to San Francisco

Sunday, March 21, was a special day for the Lytles. We had the privilege of taking two young men from our refugee family on their first trip to San Francisco.

Through Refugee Transitions, we had acquired tickets to the California Academy of Science, allowing us as sponsors to accompany the two young men. We first took the opportunity to drive across the Golden Gate bridge and enjoy a picnic lunch with picture-taking at Vista Point.

We made a stop at Pier 39 and then spent the rest of the afternoon at the Academy, walking through the rain

forest, enjoying the penguins at their play and wilderness scenes from throughout Africa. Sue Williams had let us know beforehand that it was one of the young men's birthday. What a joy to celebrate that special time together! - Bill Lytle

El Salvador Delegation at Two Events, May 2

Stone Church's participants (pictured at right) in the South Bay Sanctuary Covenant's delegation to El Salvador in March look forward to sharing what they learned and celebrated.

Come to the Fireside Room at the 11:15 am Adult Education time, on

May 2, to hear them describe their support of environmentalists in a mining dispute and their interviews with a supreme court justice, a top administration leader, and village leaders and youth in a farming community. Video and slides will illustrate their journey, which focused on the observance of the 30th anniversary of the assassination of Archbishop Romero.

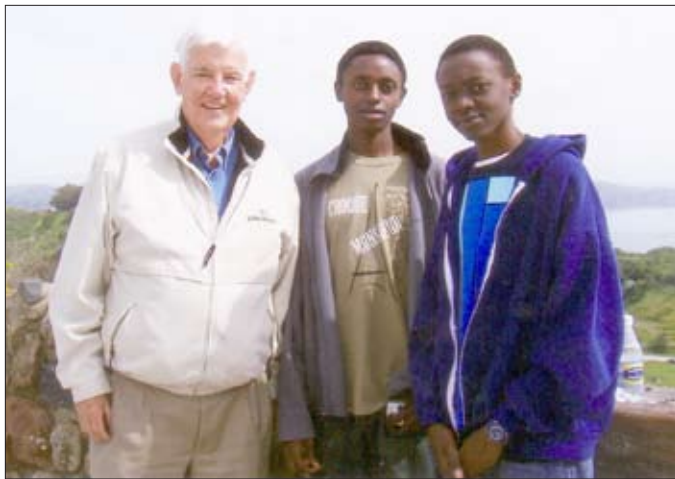


Later that same Sunday, you are also invited to join the entire 24-member delegation and enjoy a Salvadoran dinner at the First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto. Here are the details:

Romero Alive in His People on the 30th Anniversary of His Martyrdom

- ◆ Sunday, May 2, 4 pm
- ◆ First Presbyterian Church of Palo Alto, 1140 Cowper Street
- ◆ Suggested donation: \$20/adult and \$15/student for program & dinner (no one turned away for lack of funds)
- ◆ Call 650-494-8340 to RSVP

- Dale Bracey



Fred Groppuso reports that April Food Donations for Sacred Heart totalled 15 bags of food weighing 91 pounds.

THE COURAGE OF EL SALVADOR

by Katie Henry

(continued from page 1)

While we were there, we visited the tomb of Oscar Romero in the central square of San Salvador. This tomb is a very peaceful place and a reminder of the hope for nonviolence in that country. Still, even at Romero's tomb, I saw police walking around with guns. The one place in El Salvador that should not have had anything to do with violence had guns all over it. Can you believe it?

One of leaders, Maria, expressed a similar sentiment about Romero's efforts not

being honored. "It would break Romero's heart to know that a homicide a day occurs within a one-block radius of where he is buried, let alone that there is an average of twelve homicides a day in San Salvador."

Although the war is over, violence is still very much a part of the lives of Salvadorans. Even with the left wing in power, crime rates have skyrocketed. It was difficult to see hope for this country when we heard facts such as these, but the committed people we met made me realize there is a strong force fighting against injustice. They haven't lost their courage.

I cannot by any means understand fully the continuing struggle of the Salvadoran people. The hardships they have encoun-

tered in the past and still deal with in the present are beyond my comprehension. However, learning about their lives and their convictions was incredibly empowering.

One thought that stuck with me was something said by Jorje Melendez, an ex-guerrilla army leader. He told us that he is grateful for his problems because he is grateful to be alive to fight for the well-being of his people.

The dedication of people like Gloria and Jorje is a huge part of the spirit of El Salvador. Despite the turmoil they've faced, they still believe in peace. The courage I saw was inspiring and motivating for me. I hope that one day I, too, can demonstrate the kind of courage and determination that I saw in El Salvador.

Ah, the Merry Month of May! What makes it so merry? It all depends on you, and what you do.

The new “Healthy Women Healthy Families” Mother’s Day Project provides funding for malaria prevention and treatment, obstetrical care, cancer

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

screening, and family health education for women and

children in Africa. To support this project, look for Mother’s Day cards on Sunday, May 2 (Mother’s Day is



May 9). There is no actual charge for each card; however, a donation of ten dollars is suggested.

San José Presbytery is hosting *Jonna*, a mission worker

from one of the “-stans” of the Middle East (for her security, we have not been told which one). All are invited to hear her speak about her work.

Here are the places and times:

- ◆ May 9 – Saratoga Presbyterian Church, 9 am and 10:30 am
- ◆ May 12 – San José First Presbyterian Church, 6 pm
- ◆ May 16 – Westminster Presbyterian Church, 10:30 am
- ◆ May 16 – potluck at Los Gatos Presbyterian Church, 6 pm

For more detail, see the Presbytery website (www.sanjosepby.org).

Prayer partners for commissioners to the 219th (2010) General Assembly of the PCUSA are needed. If you are interested, please contact Diana Lim, and she will make arrangements.

Support for our schools by the coupon savers and S.M.A.R.T. users has been growing. Please keep up your participation as it is even more important in this time of cuts in school funds. Our efforts help give schools resources for events, as well as supplies no longer covered by state allocations. This month, we are targeting Chex and Cheerios cereals.

PW Schedule for May:

- Amethyst Circle**, 1 pm, May 5, Church Library
- Emerald Circle**, 9:30 am, May 6, Rhonda Lakatos’ home
- Sapphire Circle**, 7:30 pm, May 10, Sally Magee’s home
- Lunch Bunch**, 11:30 am, May 11, Taiwan Restaurant
- Coordinating Team**, 9:30 am, May 13, Social Hall
- Fair Trade Sales**, 10:30 am, May 16, Social Hall
- Book Group II**, 2:30 pm, May 17, reading *My Life in France* by Julia Child, Alex Prud’homme, Nancy Weiss’ home
- Book Group I**, 1 pm, May 24, Liz Shandera’s home, reading *Mudbound* by Hillary Jordan
- Focus Group**, 9:30 am, May 26, Liz Shandera’s home
- Prayer Shawl Ministry**, 4 pm, May 27, Fireside Room
- Bible Study** – Rev. Marge Palmer is on vacation until August.

- Catherine Amos

The Men’s Ministry of Stone Church includes a mission work

MEN’S MINISTRY

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 Selects Summer and Fall Books at Their May Meeting

The Men’s Book Group will meet Monday, May 17, beginning at 7:30 pm, with Bill Lakatos as host.

There will not be a particular book for discussion; the group will select books for summer and fall reading.

All men of the church are welcome to attend.

- David McCreath



DAWN PREDIUM ON “RAISING RESILIENT CHILDREN”

Dawn Charron Predium will speak on “Raising Resilient Children in a Stressful World,” on Sunday, June 6, at the 11:15 am Adult Education time.

This class will provide strategies for managing your family’s stress level, as well as techniques for supporting your children as they learn healthy and appropriate skills for coping with today’s hectic world.

As a parent (or grandparent), you need fine-tuned stress management skills to successfully guide your children through the rough waters of childhood and into their adult lives. Our children are over-scheduled and over-stressed with society’s everyday requirements,

and they need techniques to manage not only their emotions, but also their ability to interact in a healthy manner with their peers.

Society over-stimulates our children with too many options and choices on a daily basis, which leads many of us parents to wonder how to teach our children to make healthy choices.

Learn what you need to know to raise happy, healthy and well-balanced children no matter what life throws at you. And please invite friends and family who might benefit from this class too.

Sign-up during Coffee Fellowship on May 16 and 23, to give us a headcount for childcare. - Carrie Giorgianni

MARCUS BORG ON “REDEEMING CHRISTIAN LANGUAGE”



Marcus Borg returns to Stone Church in the fall as the next Henrietta Perdue Memorial Lecturer.

His major talk on Friday night, Oct. 22, will be “Speaking Christian: Redeeming Christian Language.” Three lectures on Saturday, Oct. 23,

will expand and explore this topic in detail, specifically (1) reclaiming Christian language from literalism, (2) moving from Christian convention to intention and practice, and (3) moving from cultural convention to alternative values and community.

Detailed information on the lectures will be available in future issues of *The Stone News*. - Pat Magee

CHURCH WORKDAY ON MAY 8 FOR THE BACKYARD

After removal of several trees in the backyard, plus moving stones and tiles to a new space, we are ready to continue our backyard improvement.



On May 8, from 9 am to 3 pm, the Buildings and Grounds Committee will supervise the next stage of our backyard plan – pruning walnut tree branches, removing redwood tree shoots and hedges surrounding the lawn, yearly outdoor spraying for termites at Lincoln House and the church, and removing other debris from the backyard.

Backyard renovation plans introduced last year continue at a deliberately slow pace. Thus far, volunteers have assisted in all work. Soon, however, we will need to break up the asphalt and cement in the backyard, relocate the shed, and remove the old sprinkler system. Heavy-duty jack hammers, as well as a dumpster, will be needed. If you know of anyone with this type of equipment who might “loan” it to us, please let Steve Nelson know. At the workday on July 24, we’ll complete the next stage in the backyard renovation.

We appreciate the continuing support from the congregation and friends as we complete our re-design of the backyard. Please continue to volunteer ideas, time and talents to this initiative.

Contact Steve Nelson for more information.

PLANNED GIVING PRESENTATION, JUNE 13

Have you ever had a great idea that needs some follow up, yet somehow just doesn’t get completed? Many of us have the desire to include Stone Church in our estate planning, but somehow, we don’t seem to get around to making it happen.

Perhaps we think we need more information and a chance to discuss the process. We tell ourselves we’ll do it next year, or down the road a bit.

It may surprise you to learn that it is individuals ages 40-50, followed by individuals ages 50-60, who have the highest frequency of bequests to charity.

If you are among those who want to find out more about the process of planned giving to Stone Church, you’ll be glad to learn of an upcoming opportunity. Please join us in the Fire-

side Room, on June 13, at the 11:15 am Adult Education time, where you’ll hear brief comments from members who have already made gifts or bequests to Stone.

Learn more about how establishing a bequest allows you to maintain total control of your assets during your lifetime, yet act on your wish to give back and leave a lasting legacy.

A bequest can be added to an existing will/trust, or included in a new one. It provides the means to make a bigger impact than you might be able to accomplish during your lifetime.

Come hear how others at Stone have followed through on a great idea. Join those who are enjoying the satisfaction of knowing that the programs at Stone that they admire can be continued into the future. - Kathie Lloyd

“SALADS OF SUMMER” POTLUCK, MAY 23



Plan to join your church family on Sunday, May 23, from 11 am to 1 pm, for a potluck lunch on the church patio, sponsored by the Fellowship & Renewal Committee.

Just bring your favorite salad, and we’ll provide drinks and more.

Fellowship & Renewal would also like to remind you to mark on your calendar the **Family Camping Trip to Big Basin, Aug. 13 - 15.**

SESSION DISCUSSES PASTORAL CARE, EMERGENCY RESPONSE, CE BUDGET

At its regular April 20 meeting, Session was read an email from Valley Medical Hospital Auxiliary, giving heartfelt thanks for prayer shawls received from the women of Stone Church.

Ken Henry shared with Session statements about pastoral care from the “Directory for Worship” of the *Book of Order*. “The Christian community offers pastoral care to its members in their personal and communal life ... All Christians are called to care for one another in daily living ... This care is primarily offered as the community of faith worships together. It is also provided as people interact in community ... The church offers pastoral care to people in the special needs and crises

of their lives.” Ken noted that Marge Palmer carries a significant portion of the pastoral care of this congregation.

Session acted to form an exploratory team regarding the use of Stone Church for emergency response with respect to itself and the community. Session also approved the wording of a call for a contractor to write a comprehensive manual of operations for the church.

After considerable conversation about the Christian Education needs of the church, and the importance of nurturing the next generation, Session approved adding \$1,000 to the 2010 CE budget, noting that these needs should be considered in the 2011 budgeting process. Comments included

the need for Session to consider the budget as a planning, priority-setting document, not just a set of numbers.

David Jaffer reported on the audit of Stone’s finances, with thanks to the Audit Team: Ida Raby, Carolyn Clendenning, Mel Goertz, John Ritchie and Bill Lakatos.

Session learned that a computer has been donated to the church office for the use of the treasurer and financial secretary. - Alice Thorn, Clerk of Session

Important Notice from the Budget & Finance Committee:
Church-issued checks that remain uncashed after 90 days will be voided.

Wonderful
Photos
from the
Recent
"Family
Pasta
Dinner"



College Conundrums

With this issue of The Stone News, we present a new column focused on staying in touch with our college-age Stone Church family. If you are a "college kid," or know of one, please send news or email addresses to the Editor of The Stone News.

From **Dan Willis**: I'm majoring in Environmental Economics and Policy and minoring in Conservation and Resource Studies [at UC Berkeley], and I work as an intramural basketball referee and as the student safety coordinator for intramural sports. I am planning to study abroad in South America in the spring of 2011 and am currently looking for a summer job, hopefully in San José. I spent my spring break in Yosemite with my girlfriend and a group of friends from school - 12 of us stayed in a yurt outside the park that was made for 6 - a great time!

From **Rachel Buckley**: I miss Stone Church! School is going really well. I am a sophomore at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, and I love it. I am a Politics Major with a Minor, and possibly soon to become another Major, in Spanish.

I am a Community Service Learning Coordinator this year, which basically means I help organize awareness events and community service opportunities for our students.

Over spring break, I went on an alternative spring break trip to Portland, where we learned about the issues facing LGBTQ youth experiencing homelessness.

I am going to Quito, Ecuador, this coming fall to study Spanish and Politics. I will get to live with a family there and study at the University.

From **Janna Minehart**: The most interesting thing I'll be doing is a two-week trip to India with a school group. We're going all around India, meeting dignitaries and seeing the sights.

It's finally becoming springtime here at Colgate, so I'm just trying to enjoy the weather in between my study sessions and classes!

From **Katie Henry** (see also her article on page 1): Thank you so much for including me in youth participation with the church.

I know that I haven't been at Stone very much, but I want to try to stay connected and participate as much as I can.



Dan Willis and friends at Yosemite

I have a really busy quarter this Spring trying to balance school and extra-curricular activities. I'm sticking with my Communication Major and also pursuing a Spanish and Political Science Minor. I play for the Cal Poly women's lacrosse team, and we're heading to finals in two weeks, so that will be exciting. I also sing in an *a cappella* group called *Show Me Dynamics* and work for Events Staff on campus.

This quarter, I've also taken on an internship with CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for abused and neglected children. I want to work in establishing restorative justice in the juvenile court system, so this is one of the first steps in getting into that field.

HUDSPETH TRUST PW SCHOLARSHIPS

The Presbyterian Women of Stone Church announce their 15th year of college scholarships and other grants under the Ruby M. Hudspeth Trust.

July 15 is the deadline for Stone Church youth applying for college scholarships. A student may receive this assistance for up to four years. To find out more about assistance for undergraduate students, please get an application from the PW mailbox in the church office.

Also, throughout the year, PW considers applications from individuals needing funds for training or educational programs, retreats, conferences, etc., and also from groups in and outside of the church. Applications for these types of aid are also available in the PW mailbox. - Sue Williams

GALA "RE"-OPENING OF STONE'S ART COLLECTION

Lyn Johnson, Claudia Hamm and Jeanette Rapp invite you to a *reprise* of the "Gala Opening" of the *Patricia Mussell Collection*



of paintings that grace the walls of the Church Office in the Lincoln House.

This event will take place Sunday, May 9, from

11 am until noon, in the Church Library of the Lincoln House. Refreshments will be served.

The collection of eight paintings was given to Stone Church in the 1980s. Patricia Mussell painted several and collected others from fellow artists and teachers.

Since the original "Gala Opening" last November, two new paintings - from Barbara Gleichman and Vivian Shimmon - have been added to the collection.

As you enjoy the artwork, you'll have a chance to learn about the artists and the conservation of the paintings; how to support continued conservation; and how to care for your own fine art.

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