

# THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA    OCTOBER 2010



Poets have written of their love  
of trees,  
But there is one special tree  
for me:

The tree that has stood outside  
our sanctuary door  
for fifty years and many more.

I love to see it providing such fun.  
It seems to draw and challenge  
each and every one:

Young boys and girls climbing  
its limbs;  
mothers watching on  
needles and pins.

Don't worry, Mom. They won't fall.  
This tree supports them,  
one and all.

Then when the climbers all come down  
and go merrily on their way.  
I seem to hear my tree say,  
"Hey, kids. Come again. I'll be waiting for you another day."

And now I wonder if the children who are here,  
and climbing this tree with so little fear,  
are enjoying it as much as those who have climbed before -  
that special tree that stands just outside the sanctuary door.

## A SPECIAL TREE

by Bob James



*Bob James will celebrate his 90th birthday on Oct. 18.*

*Bob and his wife Hazel have been members of Stone Church since November 1950.*

*(continued on page 2)*

## REFRESH AND REJUVENATE ON SUNDAY MORNING AT STONE CHURCH

by Mary Jo Blazek,  
Children's Ministry Coordinator

Fall is coming!

Many times that saying puts fear in the hearts of already busy and overloaded parents: the beginning of the school year, of sports teams, of music lessons, etc.

With all of this activity, when can you take a breath?

Here at Stone Church.

Make Sunday at Stone a day for your whole family to refresh and rejuvenate.

Drop your little ones, up to three years old, at our nursery, where Debra and her staff will take care of them with love and kindness.

Then, walk into the Narthex to be greeted by our dedicated Deacons – they are truly glad you are here. Don't forget to pick up some coloring activities for your younger children.

Organist Joyce will be setting the mood as you enter the Sanctuary. Sit, relax, and acknowledge all of your friends around you.

Now, it's time to take that breath, listen to the music, sing praises, pass the peace, and hear an inspiring sermon, as you listen for the word of God.

Your children will enjoy their own children's sermon and then be off to Church School, where they will continue their spiritual lessons.

After Worship, enjoy the very social Coffee Fellowship, where you can reconnect with your church family and friends.

Doesn't that sound wonderful?

See you Sunday! - Mary Jo

## BOB AND HAZEL JAMES: TWO OF STONE'S EARLIEST MEMBERS



(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Bob and Hazel James (pictured at left at a Deacon event in May 2009) joined Stone Church when Tom Simpson was pastor; however, Bob recently admitted, "We didn't know we were Presbyterians until Bill Perdue told us we were!"

Bob and Hazel were both raised Methodist, but came to Stone because it was a neighborhood church. Considering Stone a more "ecumenical" church at the time, Rev. Simpson liked to receive new members from all faiths with straightforward

"Altar Calls." One fateful Sunday, the James answered the call. And we are eternally grateful that this loving and devoted couple, and their wonderful family, have been here ever since.

Along with Ed and June Tablak, Fred and Marilyn Gardner, and Elsie Bisconer, they may be among the few left from that Altar Call period.

We celebrate the milestone of Bob's 90th birthday, and we celebrate the lives of all of the saints who have made Stone Church such a blessed and extraordinary place of Worship, mission, and fellowship.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL'S "EVENTFUL" YEAR BEGINS WITH A BANG!

The Social Hall rocked with enthusiasm in September with games involving sardines and "a unique language." (Ask a Middle School Youth what that means!)

And by the way, we didn't eat the sardines!

Thus began what promises to be a great "eventful" year, with programs that offer service opportunities and fun fellowship.

In October, we have a beach trip, and in November, we have our ranch retreat.

We've even added a new event, called a "rock-a-thon," in February.

Watch for details about our need for rocking chairs, coming soon!

The calendar is posted on the website, or send email to Rosaleen Zisch to get a copy.

## CONSIDERING BAPTISM?

Are you considering baptizing your child this year?

A *Baptism Class* for families interested in finding out more about having their children baptized at Stone will be held Sunday, Oct. 17, at 2 pm, in the Fireside Room.

There will be activities for both children and parents.

If you would like to attend, sign-up on Oct. 10 during Coffee Fellowship, or RSVP to Mary Jo Blazek, Children's Ministry Coordinator, at the church office.

# ADULT STUDY: HISTORIC JESUS, GAY/LESBIAN ORDINATION, SPEAKING CHRISTIAN

Fascinating and varied Adult Study classes are held every Sunday morning at 11:15 am in the Fireside Room.

Spend just an hour of your week to learn something new and inspiring!

## Oct. 3: "The Historic Jesus and His Resurrection, a Postmodern Perspective," with Tom Sheenan

Tom Sheenan, Professor of Religion at Stanford University, presents an unusual (and perhaps controversial) postmodern approach to understanding the historic Jesus and His resurrection.

## Oct. 10 & 24: "Ordination of Gays and Lesbians: Past, Present and Future" with Jody Meacham and Pat Magee

Jody Meacham and Pat Magee present the history of the struggle for ordination of gays and lesbians within the Presbyterian Church, USA.

The pioneering leadership of Stone Church, with the *Covenant of Dissent and Support* (1998), will also be discussed.

## Oct. 31 - Nov. 14: "Speaking Christian: Redeeming Christian Language"

The Henrietta Perdue Lecture Series, featuring Marcus Borg on *Speaking Christian: Redeeming Christian Language*, will be held Oct. 22 - 23 (see article, page 8).

Adult Study presents a three-week discussion class to expand on these lecture topics, as follows:

- \* Oct. 31: Redeeming Christian Language
- \* Nov. 7: Beyond Christian Convention to Intention and Practice
- \* Nov. 14: Beyond Cultural Convention to Alternative Values and Community

There are no Adult Study classes on  
 \* Oct. 17 (Consecration Sunday),  
 \* Nov. 21 (Celebration of Joyce Rhodes' 40 years as organist), or  
 \* Nov. 28 (Thanksgiving weekend).

For more information about Stone's Adult Education program, please contact Pat Magee, Chair, Adult Study Subcommittee.

# CHURCH LIBRARY ADDS MORE GOOD BOOKS, ASKS FOR HELP WITH DVD TRANSFER

We hope you'll come soon to visit our library! It's accessible on Sundays after Worship through the back door of Lincoln House. Usually, you may stay a good, long time, but on days with New Member Classes, we'll need to get out of their way by 11 am.

Browsing through both rooms of our collection, you'll find wonderful books for all ages, and even videos of many special choir presentations and visiting lecturers.

By the way, might you be the person who could help us by transferring these historical videos to DVDs? We'd be glad to furnish the blank DVDs.

- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

## New for our younger members:



*Maria Tallchief: American Ballerina* by Adele de Leeuw (YA Biog TALLCHIEF)

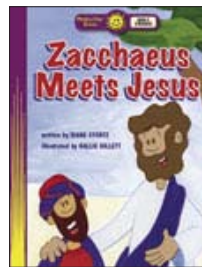


*How to Make a Rainbow: Great Things to Make and Do for 7 Year Olds* by Deborah Manley (J 745.5 Man)

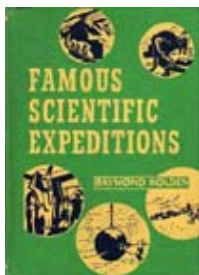


*Song of Night* by Katherine Nakamura & Linnea Riley (1st Bks Nak)

*Zacchaeus Meets Jesus* by Diane Stortz (J 225 Sto)



*All About Famous Scientific Expeditions* by Raymond Holden (YA 508 Hol)

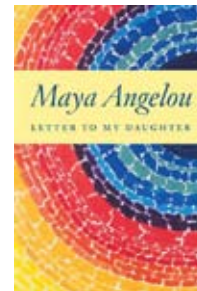
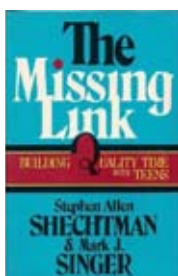


## In our adult special sections:

*Girl Mary* by Petru Popescu (F Pop), given by Joan Helms

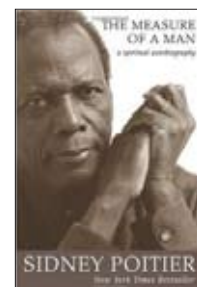
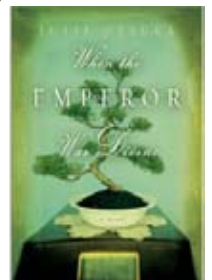


*The Missing Link: Building Quality Time with Teens* by Stephen Shechtman and Mark Singer (Fam-Teen 646.7 She)



*Letter to My Daughter* by Maya Angelou (Women 818.54 Ang)

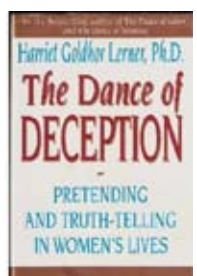
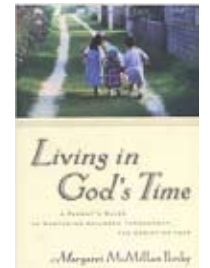
*When the Emperor Was Divine* by Julie Otsuka (F Ots)



*The Measure of a Man: A Spiritual Autobiography* by Sidney Poitier (Biog POITIER)

*Living in God's Time: A Parent's Guide to Nurturing Children*

*throughout the Christian Year* by Margaret Persky (Fam-Rel 248 Per), given by Rebecca Kuiken



*The Dance of Deception: Pretending and Truth-Telling in Women's Lives* by Harriet Lerner (Women 155 Ler)

## STONERWORKS SPONSORS BLANKET DRIVE, HELPS WITH HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL, REPORTS ON SACRED HEART CONTRIBUTIONS

StoneWorks continues to provide many opportunities for us to help others here and throughout the world.

### Sacred Heart Blanket Drive Project - On Your Mark, Get Set, GO!

StoneWorks asks you to bring clean, gently used and new blankets to Stone Church for the very important *Sacred Heart Blanket Drive Project*.

Many people will thank you for the warmth and comfort these blankets will bring on cold winter nights.



Blankets will be collected on Sundays, Oct. 24 and 31, during Coffee Fellowship.

If you have any questions, please contact Blanket Drive Chairperson Gail Chaid.

### What Do I Do with This? How to Dispose of Hazardous Waste

*Hazardous Waste Recycling and Disposal* for Santa Clara County provides a collection schedule that rotates among nine locations throughout the county.

This free drop-off disposal service, paid for by your tax dollars, is for residential household hazardous waste, and the following things will be accepted:

- \* paint, paint thinner, varnish, stain;
- \* garden, swimming pool, hobby chemicals;
- \* household cleaning products, aerosol spray cans;
- \* fluorescent tubes & CFL bulbs, propane tanks, automotive products (gas);
- \* thermometers and other mercury wastes.

For more information, go to:

<http://hhw-appts.sccgov.org/hhwevent>

This webpage will answer your questions or will direct you to a page that will. You can also make an appointment here. The whole process is fast, easy and pleasant.

If you have any questions, please contact Maureen Ryan, StoneWorks Chair.

### Second Harvest/Valley Medical Clinic Produce Mobile

At September's Second Harvest/Valley Medical Clinic Produce Mobile give-away, volunteers distributed 10,332 pounds of fruits and vegetables to 250 families.

Volunteers (which included 11 from Stone) are headed by Dr. Delgado of Valley Medical Clinic and Pat Plant from our Presbytery and work this event the second Saturday of every month, from 9:30 to 11 am.

### September Communion Sunday Food Donations for Sacred Heart

Sue Evans reports that she took 119 pounds of food to Sacred Heart on Communion Sunday in September.

### Additional Sacred Heart Donations for August and September

Karen Scott reports that donations to Sacred Heart in August and September included the following:

#### August:

- ♥ 30 bags of clothes
- ♥ 12 bags of toiletries
- ♥ egg crates
- ♥ 5 bags of paper bags
- ♥ 3 overnight travel bags
- ♥ heavy large men's down coat
- ♥ several sets of sheets and pillowcases

#### September:

- ♥ 1 large bag of clothes
- ♥ 1 woman's wool sweater
- ♥ 4 bags of grocery bags
- ♥ 1 bag of egg cartons

Thank you again for your unending generosity.

## CONSECRATION SUNDAY COMING OCTOBER 17

Get ready for *Consecration Sunday* on Oct. 17, when we again pledge to Stone Church a portion of the abundant riches that God has given to us.

The theme chosen by the Stewardship Committee for this year's *Consecration Sunday* is "Come and See What God is Doing."

In the weeks prior to *Consecration Sunday*, the entertaining, original, and insightful "chancel dramas" produced by our own Jody Meacham and Rev. Ken Henry will humorously depict the many ways that your pledges facilitate God's work through Stone Church, by rhetorically asking the question: "What would happen if Stone Church weren't around, just for one day?"

Will Stone Church *really* disappear? Will "July" and her red dress return? Will all the parking spots disappear?

You won't want to miss a single installment, especially the exciting finale, which will be followed by a delicious celebratory luncheon for the whole congregation.

Everyone is welcome on *Consecration Sunday!*

- Guy Lohman



Stone's talented Handbell Choir recently had a "Maintenance Party" to keep the bells in tip-top shape! All handbell choir members enjoyed their time together, which included a great potluck meal. We appreciate their hard work, both behind the scenes and during their beautiful performances.

*Autumn is upon us, with its cooler days. Trees are losing their leaves; liquid amber trees are really spectacular (that's sweet gums to folks from the South), but seem to be disappearing. Wonder what Columbus and crew thought of them?*

What do you know about Emmaus House? It is the only women's shelter

## PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

in San Benito County. As an ecumenically founded

and supported facility, it often has needs with which we can help. Right now, they are looking for a vacuum cleaner (their old one wore out),



paper products of all kinds, towels, toothpaste and brushes, sandwich bags (that is, plastic wrap, bags, foil, etc., for food storage), sponges, flashlights/batteries, and

light bulbs. Monetary contributions are welcome: make checks payable to *Emmaus House*, and send them to Claudia Hamm.

It is almost time to order Fair Trade Christmas gift baskets. As you are making your Christmas gift list, keep

in mind that these lovely baskets can be ordered starting Oct. 12.

Our three circles, which are open to all interested women, meet at various times and places to try to accommodate many different schedules. Contact Jan Keifer for more information about opportunities.

It is heartening to receive feedback about our programs. Maria Lopez, PTA president at R. K. Smith School, reports they have received \$331 from the S.H.A.R.E.S. program. This will certainly help with enrichment activities for the students. Many companies are offering double coupons during their *back to school* promotions.

This month we are highlighting Kimberly-Clark products, but don't forget all the others! Coupons may be placed in the box on the library cart on Sunday mornings or given to Dorothy Stevens. Don't forget the 1.5% from Lucky and Save Mart receipts (see above). If you do not have a S.H.A.R.E.S. card, bring the receipts and place them in the box on the library cart.

The **PW schedule for October** starts at the top of the next column.

**Amethyst Circle**, 1 pm, Oct. 6, Church Library

**Emerald Circle**, 9:30 am, Oct. 7, Gail Chaid's home

**Fair Trade Sales**, 10:30 am, Oct. 10, Social Hall

**Sapphire Circle**, 7:30 pm, Oct. 11, Claudia Hamm's home

**Lunch Bunch**, 11:30 am, Oct. 12, Taiwan Restaurant

**Coordinating Team**, 9:30 am, Oct. 14, Social Hall

**Book Group II**, 2:30 pm, Oct. 18, Joyce Summers' home, reading *Mayflower* by Nathaniel Philbrick

**Book Group I**, 1 pm, Oct. 25, Liz Shandera's home, reading *The Journal Keeper* by Phyllis Theroux

**Focus Group**, 9:30 am, Oct. 27, Liz Shandera's home

**Bible Study with the Rev. Marge Palmer**, 9:30 am, Oct. 28, Church Library. Lesson 2 of the study of Revelation. Have you read the entire book? This is an adventure! This study is open to everyone.

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**, 4 pm, Oct. 28, Fireside Room. This group does more than just shawls - come and learn what else you can contribute. Men are welcome. - Catherine Amos

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

## MEN'S MINISTRY

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

### Fall Book Sale, Oct. 24, Benefits Heifer, Other Mission Projects

The Fall Book Sale, sponsored by the Men's Book Group, will be held Oct. 24 in the Social Hall, following morning Worship.



At the sale, there will be a *Children's Table*, at which each book will cost twenty-five cents, to be placed in the *Heifer International Quarter Tower*.

This sale will also provide for resale of CDs and DVDs.

Books and other media to be contributed to the sale may be placed in the large box in the Social Hall during the weeks prior to the sale.

This is a good time to clean out bookshelves and prepare for winter reading!

### Mission Team Worktrip, Nov. 5-7

The Men's Mission Team is planning a worktrip, Nov. 5-7, to Westminster Woods. There is always plenty of room, and all men are welcome to come. To sign up, or for more information, contact Leland Wong.

### "The Circus" Comes to the Men's Book Group, Oct. 18

The Men's Book Group will read and discuss *Water for Elephants*, Sara Gruen's story of life in a traveling circus, Oct. 18, beginning at 7:30 pm. Rod Thorn is the host.

All men, whether performers or not, are welcome to attend.

## ANNUAL PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN "THANK OFFERING" LUNCHEON COMING NOV. 20

The annual Presbyterian Women *Thank Offering Luncheon* will be held Saturday, Nov. 20, at noon, in the Social Hall.

Come to eat and to be inspired!

For more information, please contact PW Mission Moderator, Rosaleen Zisch.



## FALL SERMON SERIES: JOURNEYS

In this season of autumn, Rev. Dr. Ken Henry has been presenting a sermon series, *Journeys*, which he describes below:

“In worship and through the sermon, we will focus on different aspects of the Christian journey. What is a spiritual journey? How does we journey toward God? And then, how do we go forward when the journey ahead appears difficult or, perhaps, without clear direction?”

I hope this sermon series encourages us to explore our own spiritual walk, lending us strength for the journey!”

Here is the schedule for the remaining sermons in this series:

Oct. 3: *Peace: A Lifelong Journey*, Rev. Ken Henry, preaching

Oct 10: *The Journey Continues*, Rev. Marge Palmer, preaching

## SUNNYVALE PRESBYTERIAN PRESENTS “CAREGIVING: WHEN ROLES REVERSE”

Jim Comer, author of the book *When Roles Reverse: A Guide to Parenting Your Parents*, will speak at Sunnyvale Presbyterian Church, on Saturday, Oct. 9. He’ll talk about the challenges and issues we often face when trying to help aging family members.

Sign in and refreshments begin at 8:30 am, and the talk goes from 9 am to noon. The event is free, but it is requested that you register by going to:

[www.jimcomer09oct2010.eventbrite.com](http://www.jimcomer09oct2010.eventbrite.com)

Stone’s Health Ministry Committee is planning a future class on helping aging family members, a timely subject especially for those in the *sandwich generation*.

- Kathie Lloyd

## SESSION LOOKS AT NEW PROCESS FOR CONTRACTS, APPROVES NEW SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE

The regular monthly meeting of the Session, held Sept. 21, began with Mary Alice Collins describing the people who come to monthly Taizé meditative prayer services. Attendees encompass a wide variety of ages – including young teens – and a variety of prayer needs – from a young man dying of cancer who came faithfully to Taizé the last year of his life – to those who have experienced the death of a loved one. The service is often the one people in crisis come to, because in the silence and beauty they experience the deeper reaches of prayer.

Susan Bedolla, chair of the Personnel and Administration Committee, brought, for a first reading, a new process for signing contracts. The process has been developed so Session is aware of, and has better control over, commitments (contracts) of \$500 or more being made in the church’s name. The process requires that any such contracts be signed by either the President or the Secretary of the Corporation.

The Session voted to appoint Rev. Aimee Moiso as the leader of a new Sunday evening service designed to appeal to members in their 30s and 40s. The intention is to help them connect with the church and with each other. The service is to be informal, with an abbreviated sermon and interactive environment. Bob and Karen Johnson will provide the music, and there will be a mission component. Rev. Ken Henry has been working with Aimee (who will receive a \$1,000 stipend for the year) to develop the service.

The date of the annual congregational meeting was set for Jan. 30, 2011.

Reporting for Presbyterian Women, Claudia Hamm talked about Emmaus House, a battered women’s shelter in Hollister, which has been open for five years. “Santa” Walter Roach volunteered his services, and Jonathan Miller and Kate Wheatley asked about projects for middle and high school kids.

- Alice Thorn, Clerk of Session

## BUDGET AND FINANCE REPORTS STONE’S STRONG CASH POSITION, REQUESTS PER CAPITA PAYMENT

The Budget and Finance Committee has provided the following financial updates this month.

### Per Capita

For those who may not know, *Per Capita* is “a set amount of money (apportionment) per member that congregations pay to the larger Presbyterian Church (USA)” [pcusa.org]. These monies are used for operational costs of the Presbytery, Synod, and General Assembly.

The 2010 *per capita assessment* is \$27.58. Stone must pay this amount for each member of the congregation. It is not included in your pledge amount.

To date, only \$4,120 of our total *per capita assessment* of \$9,856 has been received. If you have not paid your *per capita* for 2010, please do so. If you have lost your *per capita* envelope, just put your payment in another envelope marked *per capita*.

### Financial Report

Stone Church’s financial report shows we are a bit ahead of budgeted income (primarily due to pre-payment of some pledges) and a bit below budgeted expense. This accounts for a current cash position that is about \$26,000 ahead of our budget.

- David Jaffer

	Annual Budget	Income & Expense August	Budget to Date	Income & Expense YTD
Income	\$487,358	\$33,897	\$338,337	\$347,469
Expense	\$487,358	\$31,756	\$319,580	\$302,347
Cash Flow	---	\$ 2,141	\$ 18,757	\$ 45,122



*Fred Groppuso shared an interesting photo from Stone's past ... Fred is shown here installing the lighting in the basement. We've been able to identify everyone but one person in this photo ... from left: Steve Coons, the unidentified man, Fred (on ladder), Marcia Ludwig, Gary Hutchinson, Dick Kennedy, Ann Coons, Rosemary Eichorn, and Gary Weiss (kneeling with paint and roller).*

*Thanks, Fred, for a glimpse of our history!*

## College Conundrums

Please send news of college-bound members and friends to Editor, *The Stone News*.

**From Rachel Buckley:** I am studying abroad in Quito, Ecuador, right now. I've been here for about a month, and I will be staying until December.

The first four weeks we took an intensive Spanish course and traveled to the Galapagos Islands. We then entered into the University (Universidad de San Francisco de Quito).

It has been really interesting so far, and I am learning a lot from new experiences.

And I hope everything at Stone is going well.

**From Sarah Hedayati:** Over the summer, I have kept myself busy interning part-time with two different companies.

I am a market research intern at Shopatron, an e-commerce company helping other companies to expedite their shipping and handling.

The other part of my time I have been interning with the Friends of Hearst Castle. We raise money to help restore the art and artifacts in the castle and help underprivileged kids learn about art.

Both of these internships have been great experiences, and I have learned a lot. I will continue with the Hearst Castle internship through the fall.

I love and miss my Stone Church family!

## CLASSES OFFERED TO GET TO KNOW STONE CHURCH

Have you been thinking about joining the congregation here at Stone Church?

A new series of orientation classes has started and continues on Sundays, Oct. 3 and 10.

These classes are designed to help you understand our church and its many missions, and how you might consider Stone Church your next church home.

Rev. Ken Henry leads these informal gatherings at 11:15 am in the Church Library. There is no obligation to join - this is purely to help you get to know us a little better.

To let us know you are coming, or if you have any questions, please call the church office.

## MARCUS BORG ON "SPEAKING CHRISTIAN: RECLAIMING CHRISTIAN LANGUAGE"



Dr. Marcus Borg and his dog, Henry, at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Northwest Portland (Photo: Corey Arnold)

Dr. Marcus Borg, world-renowned biblical scholar and author, returns as *Henrietta Perdue Memorial Lecturer* on October 22 - 23.

He will discuss how important Christian words have lost their meaning and power over the centuries and how their rich, illuminating, and powerful meanings can be redeemed.

*Speaking Christian: Reclaiming Christian Language* is the Friday evening overview lecture. Three lectures on Saturday then expand and explore this topic: (1) *Beyond Literalism to a Historical and Metaphorical Interpretation of Christian Language*, (2) *Beyond Christian Convention to Intention and Practice*, and (3) *Beyond Cultural Convention to Alternative Values and Community*.

Tickets are on sale during Coffee Fellowship after Worship. Tickets will also be available at the Church Office and at the event.

The cost is \$20 for the Friday night lecture, \$30 for the three Saturday lectures, or \$40 for the complete program. Reduced prices for students are \$10 Friday, \$20 Saturday, \$25 complete program. Childcare is available upon request; please indicate need at least two weeks in advance. - Pat Magee

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