

# THE STONE NEWS

STONE CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN, PRESBYTERIAN USA

JANUARY 2011



## LISTEN FOR THE SPIRIT: PODCAST MEDITATIONS ON STONE'S WEBSITE

by Ken Henry

*What does it mean to begin and end our day with God? How do we listen for The Spirit? What is a podcast?*

Before attempting to answer the first two questions, let me try to answer the last one. A podcast is an audio recording that can be found on a website like Apple's *iTunes*.

These days, if we want listen to news, music, stories, old time radio, or even a stand-up comedian, we simply access the internet, maybe put on some earphones, click, and listen. In this age of expanding communication possibilities, we

can create our own virtual radio station with our own internet audience of listeners!

With that in mind, Caryl Westberg, Rod Thorn, and I have joined forces to create two podcasts that can be found on Stone's website. These are not sermons, but rather spiritual reflections to be used at the beginning and close of day.

I recorded these podcasts while staying at the New Camaldoli Hermitage in Big Sur, in December. While recording these brief 12-15 minute programs, my intention was to invite us to explore the monastic disciplines of prayer and meditation as a daily practice – to invite us to listen for *The Spirit*.

*At the Beginning of Day* is a recording that gently coaches you to begin the day's activities with a

calm spirit. Before work, before the kids get up, before addressing those pressing demands on our "to-do lists," this recording challenges us to find perspective and clarity as the morning dawns.

*At the Close of Day*, on the other hand, is intended to help us wind down and let go. In this second podcast, I attempt to bring closure and hopefully insight into how we offer to God those anxieties and worries that keep us awake during the night.

I encourage you to try one of these podcasts or let someone else know about these audio meditations. *Listen for The Spirit*.

*And may the peace of God, the peace of Christ, and the peace of The Holy Spirit fill your hearts and minds in this new year. Listen.* -Ken

# ADULT EDUCATION: CAREGIVING, ESTATE PLANNING, MANDELA, AND JEREMIAH

Stone offers fascinating and varied Adult Education classes on Sunday mornings at 11:15 in the Fireside Room. Childcare is provided. All are welcome!

## Jan. 9: Helping Aging Family Members with Danielle Myers-Rickard

The Health Ministry committee offers a special Adult Education class focusing on resources for caregivers.

Danielle Myers-Rickard, Program Coordinator for the Council on Aging, Silicon Valley, will be our guest speaker. She will give an overview of the Council on Aging and the resources they offer, with a focus on aspects of caregiving.

Almost everyone is faced with helping an aging friend or family member at some time. That help may be direct care or assistance in finding and setting up appropriate help. Anyone who may be involved in the care of a relative or friend now, or in the future, will want to attend this class.

[For more information, see the related article below.]

## Jan. 16 & 23: Faith Journeys at Stone Church

Newer members of Stone Church will share their faith journeys.

## Feb. 6: Estate Gifts for Stone Church with Skip Herbert

The Rev. George "Skip" Herbert of the Presbyterian Foundation will discuss new ways to include Stone Church in your estate plan. He will clarify current gift plan details so you may become better informed about opportunities available to all.

[For more information, see the related article below.]

## Feb. 13 & 20: Nelson Mandela and the Making of a New Nation

We will explore the remarkable story of how Nelson Mandela almost single-handedly created the new multi-racial country of South Africa and kept it from turning into a bloodbath. On Sunday evening, Feb. 13, we will see the movie, *Invictus*, with popcorn and beverages provided.

## Feb. 27 - March 27: Jeremiah: Prophet for Our Time? with Dale and Barbara Bracey

One of the most magnificent prophets of our religious history is Jeremiah.

He is as on target today as he was 600 years before the Christ.

For forty years, he lived during a turbulent time.

His life spanned an age of religious revival, yet he was an envoy during war, was jailed and humiliated, and watched the slaughter of the last king and his boys. He was then carried off to exile in chains.

Commonly known as "the prophet of doom" for the destruction and dissolution he experienced, he incredibly ends up a prophet of hope and redemption!

*There is no Adult Education class on Jan. 30 (Congregational Meeting).*

*For more information about any of these classes, contact Pat Magee, Chair, Adult Education Sub-Committee.*

## DANIELLE MYERS-RICKARD FROM COUNCIL ON AGING, SILICON VALLEY, TO PROVIDE OVERVIEW ON CAREGIVING RESOURCES

Are you getting older? Is someone you know aging? If so, plan to attend the Health Ministries Adult Education class, "Helping Aging Family Members," at 11:15 am, on Sunday, Jan. 9.



*Myers-Rickard*

Caring for an aging parent, spouse or other family member presents many difficult challenges. Often, caregiving begins suddenly, in a crisis situation, with little time to plan. Even providing occasional assistance to a friend in need can raise questions about what resources are available in the community.

Whether you will be providing direct care to someone, or helping to coordinate and manage the assistance a loved one needs, planning ahead and having information about the many resources

available can make this difficult time much less stressful for everyone involved.

Knowing what options and assistance are available will help you provide good recommendations and make the right decisions when necessary.

The Health Ministry Committee has invited Danielle Myers-Rickard, Program Coordinator for the Council on Aging, Silicon Valley, to provide an overview of the Council on Aging and the resources they offer, with a focus on aspects of caregiving.

Anyone who may be involved in the care of a relative or friend now, or in the future, will want to attend this class.

Stephen Ministers, Deacons, and others who visit our seniors will also want to attend.

*- Alice Bailey*

## REV. SKIP HERBERT FROM PRESBYTERIAN FOUNDATION TO SPEAK ON ESTATE PLANNING

The Rev. George "Skip" Herbert, of the Presbyterian Foundation, will speak on new ways to include Stone Church in your estate plan, Feb. 5 and 6.



*Rev. Herbert*

The Presbyterian Foundation has developed new strategies designed to appeal to all age groups.

Appointments will be available on Saturday, Feb. 5, from 1 to 5 pm, to meet with Skip individually, with your questions and ideas, as you work on your estate plans. More information about making those appointments will be available during the last two weeks of January.

Skip will lead an Adult Education class, at 11:15 am, on Sunday, Feb. 6, both to present new methods and to clarify current gift plan details, so you may become better informed about opportunities available to all members and friends of Stone Church.

*- Ruth McCreath*

## WAKE UP IN THE NEW YEAR WITH "KEN AND JOHN"!

Join Ken Henry for an early morning discussion of the Gospel of John, chapters 10 through 21.

The class will meet in the Church Library on Thursday mornings, at 6:30 am, beginning Jan. 13 and running through Feb. 24.



Ken Henry as King Wenceslas

Of course, wake-up coffee will be provided, and maybe even some doughnuts! - Pat Magee

## JOIN THE HIGH SCHOOL GROUP FOR "SIERRA AT TAHOE"!



All high school students are invited to join Stone's High School Youth Group for a skiing trip to Sierra at Tahoe from Jan. 14 through 17.

Lodging and food will run \$100 - 120. Skiers are responsible for purchasing their own

lift tickets. Non-skiers and snow bunnies are encouraged to attend and can sled and play in the hot springs.

Limited scholarships are available.

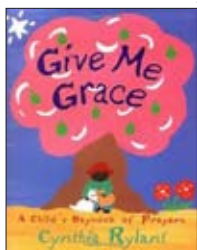
For more detail, contact Ellen Williams.

## START THE NEW YEAR WITH A NEW BOOK FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY!

We suggest greeting the new year with books that stretch our understanding about God, family, neighbor, earth, and ourselves.

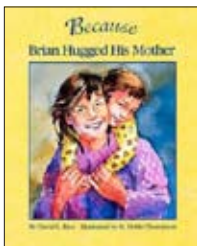
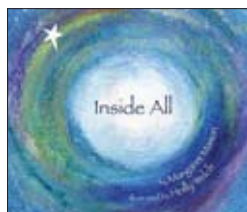
- Sue Williams, Library Coordinator

### New for our younger members:



**Give Me Grace: A Child's Daybook of Prayers** by Cynthia Rylant (1st Bks 291 Ryl)

**Inside All** by Margaret Mason (1st Bks Mas)



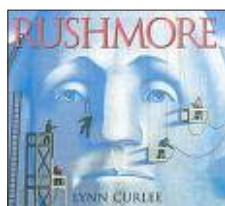
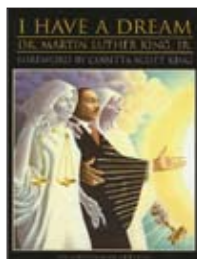
**Because Brian Hugged His Mother** by David L. Rice (J Ric)

**To Every Thing There Is a Season**



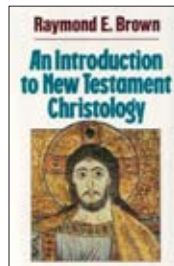
by Leo & Diane Dillon (J 223 Dil)

**I Have a Dream** by Martin Luther King, Jr. (J 305.8 Kin)

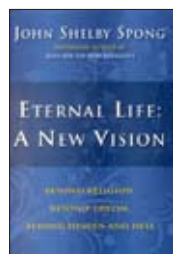


**Rushmore** by Lynn Curlee (YA 736 Cur)  
**On the adult side:**

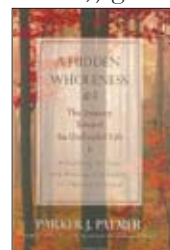
**An Introduction to New Testament Christology** by Raymond



E. Brown (232.09 Bro) and **Eternal Life: A New Vision—Beyond Religion, Beyond Theism, Beyond Heaven and Hell** by John Shelby Spong (236 Spo), both given by Pat Magee



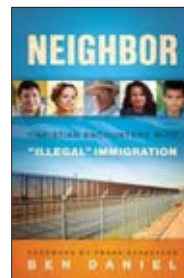
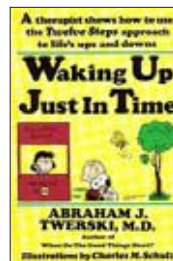
**A Hidden Wholeness: The Journey Toward an Undivided Life** by Parker Palmer (248.4 Pal), given by Claudia Hamm



**Women's Consciousness, Women's Conscience: A Reader in Feminist Ethics** edited by B. Andolson, C. Gudorf & M. Pellauer (261.7 And)

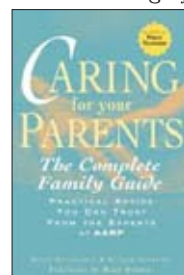
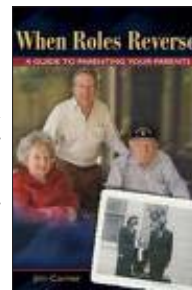
### In our adult special sections:

**Waking Up Just in Time: A therapist shows how to use the Twelve Steps approach to life's ups and downs** by Abraham Twerski (Spec Needs 362 Twe)



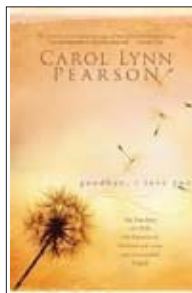
**Neighbor: Christian Encounters with "Illegal" Immigration** by Ben Daniel (Soc Iss 277.3 Dan), given by Diana Lim

**When Roles Reverse: A Guide to Parenting Your Parents** by Jim Comer, and **Caring for Your**



**Parents: The Complete Family Guide** by H. Delehanty & E. Ginzler (Spec Needs-A 649.8), both given by the Health Ministries Committee

**Goodbye, I Love You** by Carol Lynn Pearson (Soc Iss Sexuality 362.1 Pea)



**Heaven Is Under Our Feet: A Book for Walden Woods** edited by E. Henley & D. Marsh (Ecol 363.7 Hen)

## CONSIDERING A MISSION TRIP TO EL SALVADOR? COME TO AN ORIENTATION ON JANUARY 14

Young adults and youth, have you ever wanted to know (*really know*) what life is like for peasants struggling in a third world country of Central America?

How do they learn to make their infant democracy work and develop their economy for more than the enrichment of a few families?

In El Salvador, specifically, how do they relate to each another after a debilitating 12-year civil war?

What is the faith that energizes them and gives them hope?

Become part of a week-long Delegation to El Salvador, March 19-27, to learn firsthand about injustices and the ways the people work for change.

Dialogue with local and national leaders, students, and former guerilla combatants!

Older adults are welcome, too!

The next orientation for this amazing Delegation of the South Bay Sanctuary Covenant is Jan. 14. Young adult scholarships are available for the March trip, and applications are now due.

For more information, you can also speak with Chris Nilson, Dale Bracey, or Maureen Chandler.



Stone's Communion Sunday Food Donations to Sacred Heart for December totalled 197 pounds. StoneWorks thanks you for your continuing generosity!

## SIGN UP NOW FOR THE WONDERFUL ZEPHYR EXPERIENCE, JULY 3 - 8, 2011

Sign up now for *The Zephyr Experience 2011*, which runs from July 3 - 8, at the beautiful Zephyr Point Conference Center at Lake Tahoe.

The Zephyr Experience is an annual five-day intergenerational, educational conference for families, couples, and individuals hosted in the beautiful Tahoe Center with 43 guest rooms.

Join in this stimulating and enriching event surrounded by the unparalleled splendor of Lake Tahoe and the Sierra. Stone Church traditionally has one of the largest groups at the conference.

Two morning sessions (8:45 and 10:30 am) are scheduled for adult classes; afternoons are free; and a short worship service is held in the evening. Here are summaries of the sessions:

### \* Bible:

**First Period:** *God and Human Suffering*, with Greg Love, professor, SFTS

**Second Period:** *Singing Our Way Through Scripture*, with Mary Lynn Tobin, pastor, Davis Comm. Church

### \* Spirituality:

**First Period:** *Slaveships to Sanctuaries*, with Ann Jefferson, co-director Worship, Pacific School of Religion

**Second Period:** *Experiencing God's Healing Presence*, with Barbara Rose Billings, spiritual director, San Rafael



### \* Church and Society:

**First Period:** *Immigration Through the Lens of Faith*, with Ben Daniel, pastor, Foothill Pres. Church, San José  
**Second Period:** *Ethics and Mystics: The Connection between Mystical Prayer and Christian Moral Life*, with Lisa Fullam, assistant professor, Jesuit School of Theology

### \* Children's and Youth Programs:

**Ages 4 - 9:** *Finding God in All Things*, with Amy Tobias, St. Andrews Presbyterian Church, Marin City  
**Ages 10 - 13:** *Great Passages and Favorite Stories of the Bible*, with Tom Nolen, Hospital Chaplain, Portland  
**Ages 14 - 17:** *Justice, Spirituality, and Decision Making*, with Ellen & Brandon Williams, Stone Church High School Youth Group Leaders

Here is some information about costs (with a shared room):

	Tahoe Center	Cabins 32 & 33
Adult	\$525	\$475
Children & Youth (3-17)	\$280	\$280
Note: Children under 2 are free.		

Attendance is limited. Be sure to enroll *now* for this exciting week at Lake Tahoe.

Detailed information and registration forms are available in the church office and by mid-January will also be available on the Zephyr Point website ([www.zephyrpoint.org](http://www.zephyrpoint.org)).

- Pat Magee

Happy New Year! As the holidays wind down, and the rains are upon us, it may be a good time to sit back, relax, and read a good book. "Revelation" comes to mind, or maybe one of the books recommended by our book groups. Can you think of a resolution so easy to keep and such a pleasure?

It is the middle of PW's program year, but our circles are always open to new members. If you have not enjoyed the challenge of our Bible Study and the companionship of one of these groups, now may be the time.

Amethyst Circle is led by Jan Keifer and Hazel James. Emerald Circle is led by Diana Lim. Sapphire Circle is led by Joyce Summers. Contact any (or all) of them for more information and a hearty welcome.

Oops! The PWP Epiphany Tea will be held Jan. 9 (not Jan. 2 as previously advertised). We hope that this will not have upset your calendar too

much. The tea is becoming a tradition for Stone Church to host, because it includes a Taizé worship service, and we are happy to embrace this lovely event.

In case you missed the announcement last month, in the midst of all the other happenings, the PW Coffee Project must raise prices for coffee due to shortages caused by extreme weather. Regular will now be \$6.50, beans will be \$7, and organic decaf will be \$8. (Non-organic decaf is not available.) The "Coffee of the Month" for January is "Love Buzz."

Book Group I meets at a time (1 pm) that you may find convenient and finishes before the traffic gets heavy at the end of the workday. If you have found the titles the group is reading interesting and would like to join the discussion, please contact Carolyn Clendenning for more detail.

Our coupon and S.H.A.R.E.S. programs think that this cold weather cries out for hearty soup, so look for all the Campbell varieties.

#### PW Schedule for January:

**Amethyst Circle**, 1 pm, Jan. 5, Church Library

**Emerald Circle**, 9:30 am, Jan. 6, Maureen Ryan's home

**PWP Epiphany Tea**, 2-4 pm, Jan. 9, Social Hall and Sanctuary

**Sapphire Circle**, 9:30 am, Jan. 10, Kate Wheatley's home

**Lunch Bunch**, 11:30 am, Jan. 11, Taiwan Restaurant

**PWCT**, 9:30 am, Jan. 13, Social Hall

**Fair Trade Sales**, 10:30 am, Jan. 16, Social Hall

**Book Group II**, 2:30 pm, Jan. 17, Claudia Hamm's home, discussing *The Year of Fog* by Michelle Richmond ("Silicon Valley Reads 2011" book)

**Book Group I**, 1 pm, Jan. 24, Hazel James' home, discussing *Ape House* by Sara Gruen

**Focus Group**, 9:30 am, Jan. 26, Bea Groppuso's home

**Bible Study with the Rev. Marge Palmer**, 9:30 am, Jan. 27, Church Library. This will be Lesson 6 of the Book of Revelation. The study is open to everyone interested: Have you read the entire book? Now may be the right time!

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**, 4:30 pm, Jan. 27, Fireside Room

- Catherine Amos



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 activities, contact Parish Associate David McCreath.

**MEN'S MINISTRY**



#### Men's Book Club Makes Their Book Selections for First Four Months of 2011

The Men's Book Club has chosen their books for the first four months of the new year, as follows:

**Jan. 17:** at Gary Weiss's home, discussing *Through the Heart of the South* by Jody Meacham.

**Feb. 21:** at Bill Ribble's home, discussing *Benjamin Franklin's The Art of Virtue: His Formula for Successful Living*, edited by George L. Rogers.

**March 21:** at Art Holtz's home, discussing *Kindred* by Octavia E. Butler.

**April 18:** discussing *Nothing to Envy: Ordinary Lives in North Korea* by Barbara Demick [host is to be determined].

**May 16:** selecting books for the following months [host is to be determined].

For more information about the Men's Book Club, please contact Bill Ribble.

## "TRAVEL AROUND THE WORLD WITH THE DEACONS" ON JANUARY 30

"Travel Around the World with the Deacons" is the theme of the Deacon's winter event for seniors, which will be held Sunday, Jan. 30, from 2 to 4 pm, in the Social Hall.

Several of our seniors will relate fascinating stories of interesting travels in the U.S. and abroad.

Musical entertainment will be provided by Kate and Michael Wheatley.

Appetizers, finger foods and dessert will be served.

Seniors who would like to attend this event should contact Sue Evans or Nancy Weiss.

For rides to the church, please contact Ken Stutz.

- Sue Evans



## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE CONTINUES TO RECEIVE PLEDGES, THANKS YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

As of December 13, I'm happy to report that pledges for 2011 have reached \$450,758, including seven first-time pledges totalling \$17,160.

Thanks again to all of you for your wonderful generosity!

However, we still have 24 families who pledged in 2010 whom we haven't heard from yet this year.

If you haven't pledged yet for 2011, we've mailed you a pledge form and hope you will submit your pledge immediately, so the Budget Review Committee can finalize the budget in January for Session and the congregation to approve.

If you need another pledge form, please email me (Guy Lohman), or print the form from this website:

[www.stonechurch.org/Stewardship/index.php](http://www.stonechurch.org/Stewardship/index.php)

Then, complete the form, being sure to sign it, and mail it or bring it to the church office.

We also encourage you to sign up for automatic withdrawal from your checking account (that form is also on this website), to save you the hassle of writing checks and remembering your envelope, while also saving Stone Church the cost of printing envelopes and depositing your checks.

And please note that if you have been signed up for automatic withdrawal (in 2010), we would still like you to turn in a pledge form, to confirm your intention for the coming year (2011).

Lastly, please let Guy Lohman, Ken Henry, or Sally Magee know if you will be unable to honor your 2010 pledge, so that we can plan accordingly.

Thanks again for your generosity to Stone Church!

- Guy Lohman,  
Stewardship Chair

## BUDGET & FINANCE EXPLAINS THE IMPORTANCE OF GIFTING YOUR PER CAPITA APPORTIONMENT

Each year, most of Stone's members make a generous financial pledge of a certain dollar amount to support our church budget.

To help remind you of your pledge, a box of envelopes is purchased for you and provided at the first of the year. In the front of that box is a set of additional envelopes for some exceptional gifts.

One of those envelopes is a *Per Capita* envelope. An enclosed colored sheet explains the *Per Capita* (which means *per member*) calculation. If you are not from a Presbyterian Church background, this may seem odd, but it is the way that the broader Presbyterian Church chooses to fund its needs.

*Per Capita* is a financial apportionment asked of all churches to cover the specific operational costs of the Presbytery, the Synod, and

the General Assembly. The 2011 amount is \$27.50 for each member (\$55 per couple).

Tradition at Stone Church has always excluded the *Per Capita* apportionment from our annual pledges. However, the church must pay this amount per member, whether or not we receive your *Per Capita* gift.

As a result, when we don't receive members' gifts for this, we must take it out of general operating funds as an exceptional expense, thereby taking away from other programs.

The Budget & Finance Committee urges each member of the congregation to make this special gift separately, using the envelope provided, so 100% of your pledge dollars can be used for Stone Church programs.

- David Jaffer, Budget & Finance Chair

## SESSION: SCOTT-BRAND IS NEW OFFICE MANAGER

At its regular meeting on Dec. 21, Session had the joy of accepting the recommendation from the Personnel & Administration Committee of a new office manager, Jennifer Scott-Brand, who will start Jan. 3.

Jennifer is a Stone Church member and was baptized and married at Stone. She has long experience with office manager positions.

The office manager search started with 190 applications. Bob Lowry, Susan Bedolla, and Rhonda Lakatos, who comprised the search committee, winnowed this number to 30. They were joined by Steve Nelson (part of the job deals with his committee, Buildings & Grounds). There were many highly skilled applicants, and narrowing the choice was not easy. Ken met with the top candidates, and the choice was made.

In other business, two reports on finances were quite hopeful. David Jaffer, for the Budget & Finance Committee, noted that the 2010 budget year will end with a surplus due to the fact that expenses have

been kept *under* budget, and some items, such as loose offerings, have come in *higher* than budgeted. The Budget Review Committee has developed a budget for 2011 that totals approximately \$500,000. Guy Lohman, chair of Stewardship, had reported that pledges could realistically be budgeted at \$460,000, with a higher total possible.

More good financial news is that the request for members to think about a year-end gift to the building fund brought in a single gift of \$20,000. Session gave thanks for this generosity.

Steve Nelson, chair of Buildings & Grounds, Carol Westerberg, and Judi Kaiser made a presentation on the computerized *Manual of Operations*. This is a comprehensive compendium of information about our church building, its history, and its operations. Have you ever wanted to know where the six furnaces are located? Where the pulpit furniture and pews came from? It's all in this *Manual*.

- Alice Thom, Clerk of Session



*photos (courtesy of Dan Raby) from  
"Good King Wenceslas" chancel opera per-  
formed Sunday, December 19, at Stone Church*





## STONE CHURCH WOMEN'S RETREAT IS COMING SOON!

Save the weekend of March 18 - 20 on your new 2011 calendar for the always fun and inspirational Stone Church Women's Retreat at the beautiful St. Francis Retreat Center in San Juan Bautista.

We are especially blessed this year to be led by Jane Odell. Her many gifts of leadership are renowned in our Presbytery.

For more information, contact Rosaleen Zisch or Colleen Blackburn.

## DEACONS ANNOUNCE A NEW PROGRAM, "STONE CARES" – A COMMUNITY SUPPORT NETWORK FOR FOOD, RIDES, AND MORE

The Deacons would like to announce the formation of a new program, *Stone Cares*, a congregational and community support network that will provide food, rides, and other types of support.

Leadership will be provided by the Stone Church Deacons; however, it is hoped that services will be provided by congregational volunteers.

You can sign up to help during Coffee Fellowship in early January, or contact Stone Cares Chairperson, Ken Stutz, or Moderator of Deacons, Don "Skip" Skipwith.

This gives all of us an opportunity to "pay it forward."

Thanks for your help!

- Don Skipwith

## "ORGAN CELEBRATION" DVDs/CDS NOW AVAILABLE

Stone Church's "Organ Celebration" DVDs and CDs are here!

With his usual flair, Patrick McDaid has produced yet another quality DVD for the Stone community and pipe organ enthusiasts.

The DVD has two parts:

- ✳ **Part 1: "Organ Celebration"**  
Excerpts of the Nov. 21, 2010, service of the organ's 25 years and organist Joyce Rhodes' 40 years. Listen as Janice Goertz relates the organ's history, and watch close-ups of Joyce playing the organ.
- ✳ **Part 2: "The Rest of the Story"**  
Join Joyce Rhodes on a behind-the-scenes tour of the organ.



In addition to this DVD, our savvy audio recording expert, Bob Johnson, has produced a full-length CD of Joyce's afternoon concert.

These DVDs and CDs can be purchased at the church office for \$10 each.

Enjoy them both! -

- Caryl Westerberg

## WANT TO MEET OTHER STONE MEMBERS? TRY "TABLES FOR 6, 7, 8"

Have you wanted to make a connection with another person at Stone, but haven't found a way to make it happen?

*Tables for 6, 7, 8* is a new program brought to you by the Fellowship & Renewal Committee to provide just that opportunity.

Here's how it works: *Tables* will run from January through April 2011. You are invited to sign up for three or four months of meeting for a meal (dinner, lunch, brunch, picnic - whatever works for your group) so each team in the group has the opportunity to be the host. When you sign up, you will be asked to name someone you don't know well, but with whom you'd like to become better acquainted.

The sign-ups will be used to generate *Tables of 6, 7, or 8*. Then, each *Table* group will communicate to plan their unique journey. This is a great opportunity for singles, as well as couples - you don't need a partner to participate. Come one, come all!

For questions, contact June Tablak or Katherine Webb Calhoon.

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